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Low **32°**



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American literature to
captivate SLO audience

IN SPOTLIGHT, 7

Poly baseball team
must replace all
but three starters

IN SPORTS, 16



Volume LXX, Number 68

Thursday, January 18, 2007

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drip irrigation creates icicles and forms an insulation, a way of protecting oranges on the trees Jan. 13 in Exeter, Calif.

Prices soar for California citrus after temperatures plummet

Olivia Munoz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO, Calif. — From Valentine's Day bouquets to Super Bowl spreads, shoppers soon will be feeling the sting of higher prices from a wave of icy weather that has hit California farms.

As much as three-quarters of the state's citrus crop withered in the field during the cold snap, but nearly every winter crop, from avocados to fresh-cut flowers, has suffered severely.

The shortages' impact wasn't lost on Joseph Vasquez, who realized what it could mean for his party plans with NFL playoffs in full swing.

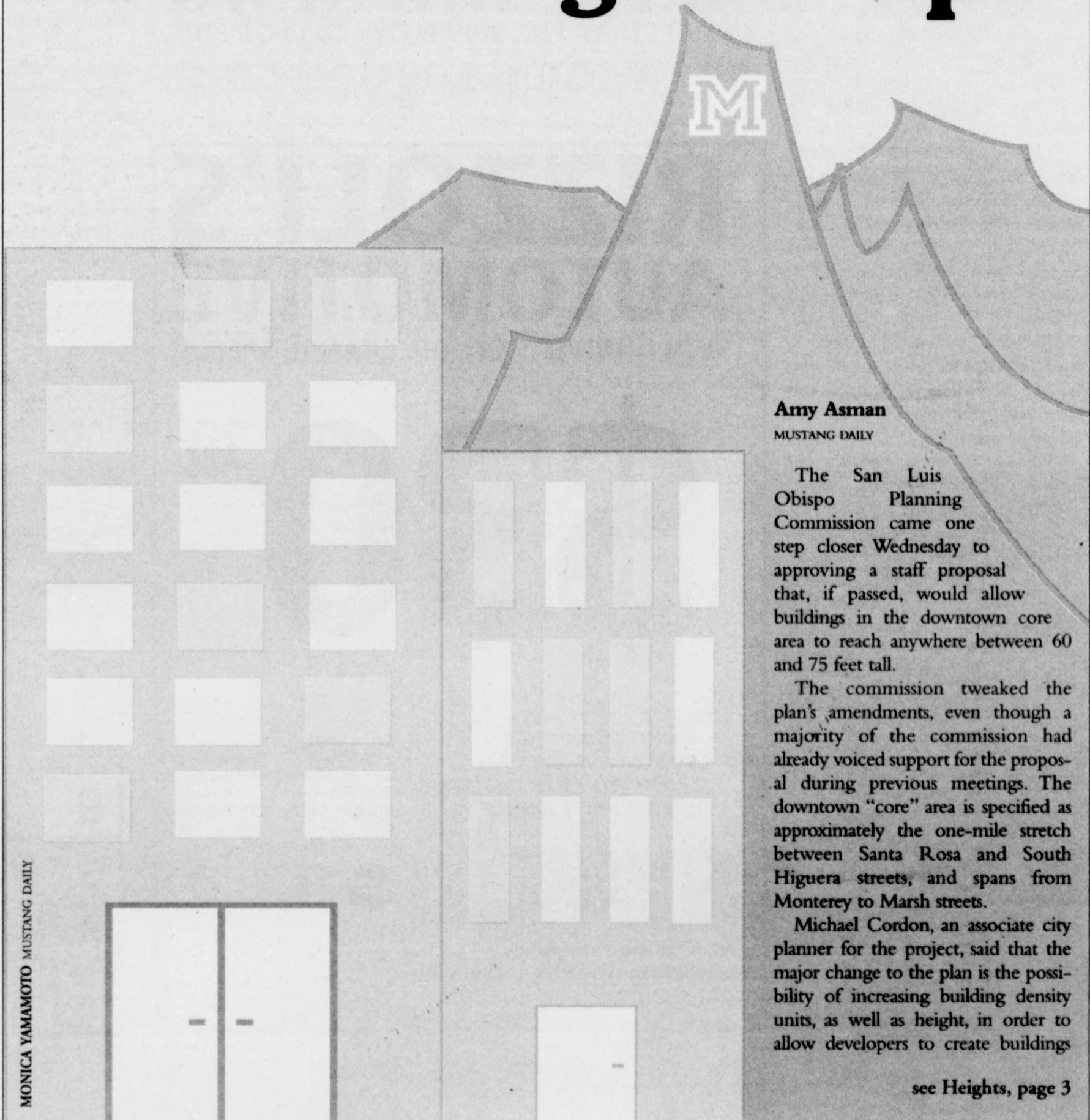
"Avocados are expensive enough as it is," the 32-year-old Pasadena school teacher said. "We may have to do without guacamole for a while. And we may be drinking our Coronas without limes."

Price hikes still won't be enough to offset the damage, as growers cope with nearly \$1 billion in losses following four consecutive nights of subfreezing temperatures.

On Tuesday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger asked the federal government for disaster aid from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Small Business Administration for growers and other affected businesses.

see Citrus, page 2

Will SLO grow up?



Amy Asman
MUSTANG DAILY

The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission came one step closer Wednesday to approving a staff proposal that, if passed, would allow buildings in the downtown core area to reach anywhere between 60 and 75 feet tall.

The commission tweaked the plan's amendments, even though a majority of the commission had already voiced support for the proposal during previous meetings. The downtown "core" area is specified as approximately the one-mile stretch between Santa Rosa and South Higuera streets, and spans from Monterey to Marsh streets.

Michael Cordon, an associate city planner for the project, said that the major change to the plan is the possibility of increasing building density units, as well as height, in order to allow developers to create buildings

see Heights, page 3



Master Sgt. Patricia Marsano planted a tree in Iraq on Dec. 23 while SLO residents simultaneously planted trees on Foothill Boulevard.

Former Poly professor sends olive trees to Iraq

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

A local chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers donated 164 olive trees to a group of American soldiers in Iraq this holiday season.

Master Sgt. Patricia Marsano from the United States Army Reserves contacted the California Rare Fruit Growers and asked for a donation of olive trees to plant around their base.

"The soldiers decided it would be nice to leave something in this town as a good gesture," said Art DeKleine, co-chair of the California Rare Fruit Growers and professor emeritus in the Cal Poly Mathematics Department. "It is one of those nice things

that one group of people does for another, and I think that is why everybody jumped on the bandwagon."

Joe Sabol, a member of the California Rare Fruit Growers and retired professor in the agriculture education department, rallied together local community members to begin a fundraiser for the olive trees, a symbol of peace to people around the world.

An anonymous donor sent a check to the organization to pay for all 164 olive trees, Sabol said.

"It has wonderful symbolism," DeKleine said. "It drew a lot of people together and it is just the kind of good spirit that one would like to see."

Sabol also had to receive permission from
see Iraq, page 2

Citrus

continued from page 1

"This is not just about the crop this year. It could also have a devastating effect next year," Schwarzenegger said after touring a devastated orange grove in Fresno. "My administration will make sure that we do everything we can to help the farmers and workers get through this."

The state's citrus industry stands to take the biggest economic hit of all crops.

California is the nation's No. 1 producer of fresh citrus, growing about 86 percent of lemons and 21 percent of oranges sold in the U.S., according to the California Farm Bureau. Florida produces more citrus overall, mostly for use in orange juice, according to the USDA.

Growers say more than 70 percent of this season's oranges, lemons and tangerines were still on the trees as nighttime temperatures in California's Central Valley dipped into the low 20s and teens beginning Friday. The fruit is threatened whenever the mercury falls below 28 degrees.

"Limited amounts were harvested before the freeze, so it's not like the markets are going to dry up suddenly," said Claire Smith, a spokeswoman for Sunkist Growers Inc., a Los Angeles-based cooperative owned by some 6,000 growers in California and Arizona.

Still, the diminished supply is bound to drive up prices, Smith said. Sunkist may import oranges and other fruit from South Africa and other countries.

"We may adjust the prices as we discover the full extent of the damage next week, but for now, if you bought an orange at the supermarket for 50 cents, expect to pay a dollar to \$1.49 for it," said Todd Steel, owner of Royal Vista Marketing, which sells California citrus to markets throughout the country.

Damages from the freeze will likely surpass those from a three-day cold snap in December 1998 that destroyed 85 percent of California's citrus crop, a loss valued at \$700 million, state Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura said.

The state also suffered a deep freeze in 1990 — one that completely wiped out the \$1 billion crop. It took growers two years to recover.

Labor leaders are also watching the weather closely. They estimate as many as 12,000 field workers and packing house employees could lose their jobs for the remainder of the season.

The state may offer emergency unemployment assistance to workers laid off because of the crisis, said Henry Renteria, director of the state Office of Emergency Services.

Damaged fruit from the current freeze may still be salvaged as juice, usually a byproduct for California farmers, Smith said.

Adverse weather has also taken a toll on the Florida-dominated orange juice industry in recent years. After two nasty hurricane seasons compounded by drought and crop disease, PepsiCo Inc., which sells juice under the Tropicana and Dole labels, and Coca-Cola Co., which owns Minute Maid, each raised orange juice prices over the past several weeks.

Inflated prices also are expected for other crops that have fallen victim to the icy California weather, state agricultural officials said.

Iraq

continued from page 1

the military to send the trees to the base and find the most cost-effective method of shipping the trees.

FedEx joined the event by shipping all the plants to Iraq for free and in time for the scheduled planting on Dec. 23.

"That same day, we decided we wanted to plant some trees here at the same time to let them know we were thinking of them," Sabol said. "It was just a nice way to connect with the soldiers for doing a nice thing."

On Dec. 23, Sabol along with the California Rare Fruit Growers, military families, a FedEx representative and local community members came together and planted 12 trees along Foothill Boulevard across from This Old House restaurant.

The event gained national recognition from CNN news and Marsano was made an honorary member of the local California Rare Fruit Growers chapter.

"It's really a gift from the military to the people of Iraq because someday they are going to give that base back to the Iraqi people," Sabol said. "It was really a kind of inspirational thing."

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UC considers banning research funds from tobacco companies

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — University of California leaders are considering whether they should tell faculty to say no to research dollars carrying a whiff of the tobacco industry.

The proposal, scheduled to be voted on by UC's governing Board of Regents on Thursday, has stirred debate over the pedigree of research grants, an increasingly pressing subject as traditional federal funding sources have shrunk.

Supporters say the university should distance itself from the tobacco industry. They point to a federal judge's ruling last summer that the nation's top cigarette makers conspired for decades to mislead the public about the health hazards and addictive nature of smoking.

Banning the funds would be "an excellent policy and an excellent step forward," said Ellen Vargyas, general counsel for the American Legacy Foundation, a national anti-smoking group founded in 1999 with money from the huge settlement ending lawsuits brought by states against tobacco companies.

"It would avoid inappropriate influence on research," Vargyas added. "It would avoid the inherent conflict of interest that the university faces when it accepts tobacco industry funding, and they would not be playing a role in letting the tobacco companies trying to show they are good corporate citizens."

But opponents, who include UC top administrators, say as long as university rules are followed — research must be objective; sponsors can't control results — they don't want to open the door to weighing the moral worth of potential sponsors.

"We trust our faculty to do high-quality, objective research irrespective of where their funding comes from," said Lawrence Coleman, UC's vice provost for research.

Regent Richard Blum, one of two regents proposing the ban, said he agrees that academic freedom is crucial. But he said the tobacco industry is unique.

"This industry has had a history of trying to buy research that basically says that tobacco smoking's not so bad, or that it isn't addictive," he said.

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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3			8			
9		7		3	1	8
	9					5
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Local briefs

DIABLO CANYON — A wildfire that ripped through brush near a Central Coast nuclear power plant under legal scrutiny was fully contained Wednesday, authorities said.

The fire burned 300 acres within two miles of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant north of San Luis Obispo, said Laura Brown of the California Department of Fire and Forestry.

About 300 firefighters battled the blaze that broke out Sunday on land owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and spread to parts of Montana de Oro State Park.

Most trails in the park have been reopened.

"We were very fortunate keeping the fire from spreading in the direction of the Diablo plant," Brown said.

Flames were kept a mile from transmission lines, she said.

The fire followed a weather system that brought winds and low temperatures to the area.

"The cold and fighting fire in the middle of January is not unheard of but is very unusual. We were trying to keep our crew safe from hypothermia," Brown said.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Tuesday it will not review a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling requiring an examination of how a terrorist attack on the power plant's aboveground waste storage could harm the environment.

The decision forces the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the plant's owner, PG&E, to comply with the ruling challenging NRC's permit to allow storage of more radioactive spent-fuel at the plant.

The plant is building new stainless steel and cement storage facilities because the current waste repository at the site is filling up.

"PG&E is of course disappointed that the court will not consider this important issue," but construction on the project will continue, the company said in a statement.

— Associated Press

Heights

continued from page 1

with more private residences.

The report has been under works for the last few months, and was first presented to the public on Dec. 13, where it was met with both concern and support.

Presently, San Luis Obispo residents are torn over the possibility of having taller buildings downtown.

"I would disagree with the city allowing larger buildings downtown because I think it would destroy the character and ambiance of the town as a whole," biomedical engineering sophomore Caleb Casey said.

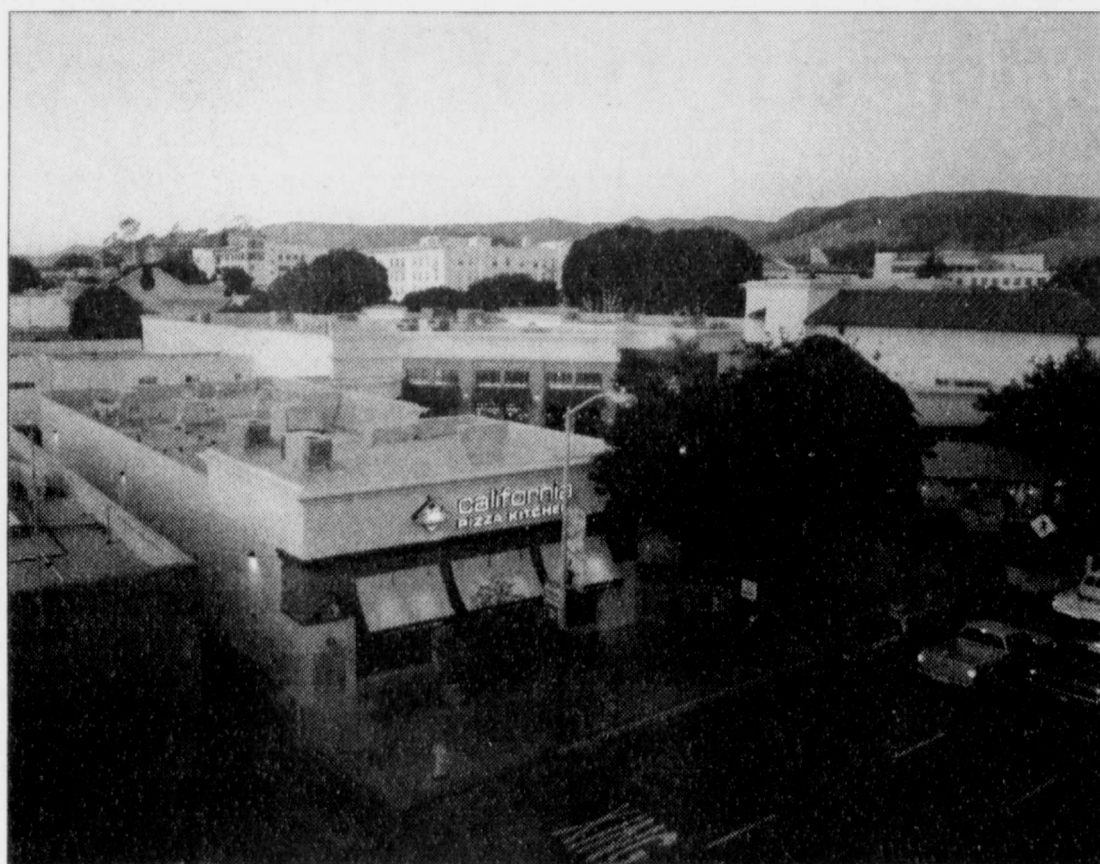
Other concerns voiced by the public during both of the meetings included the emergence of costlier housing, the lack of sunlight downtown and view obstruction.

However, the commission is looking into proposing solutions for the public's concerns. One such idea is requiring that new buildings be constructed at an angle that would allow the greatest amount of light into the surrounding area.

On the other hand, some people are welcoming the possibility of increasing the building heights downtown.

"I welcome the urban core to grow a bit," said Patricia Wilmore, a San Luis Obispo resident and member of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce. "I'm not afraid that we're going to see a budding metropolis. Sixty feet is very reasonable."

Planning commission Chairwoman Andrea Miller also said that she was excited by the concept of using the increased building space for mixed purposes including housing, offices and retail.



BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY

The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission is in the process of introducing a proposal that would increase downtown building heights to 60 to 75 feet tall.

Still, much of the public remains slightly skeptical of the idea of having a "San Luis Obispo skyline," although it was been stated that the proposed increase in height is moderate and will not lead to the mass production of skyscrapers.

And while they may not be excited about the possible change, some residents and students view the increase in height as a foreseeable result of progress.

"It's too bad they're going to make the buildings taller, but at the same time, I think we're going to have to update the city — it's the price of progress," landscape architecture junior Marina Hadley said.

"If the city does end up doing this, I

recommend (developers) use solar energy panels to conserve energy. They could also use recycled paper and recycled cement, as well as used floorings from old buildings," Hadley said.

"They could even use specialized glass that would reflect sunlight better and decrease the amount of shadows around the buildings. But, of course, that all depends on whether or not they use the right architects," Hadley said.

The final staff report concerning building height downtown will be presented to the City Council during their Feb. 6 meeting. For more information, contact City Hall at (805) 781-7100 or visit www.slocity.org.

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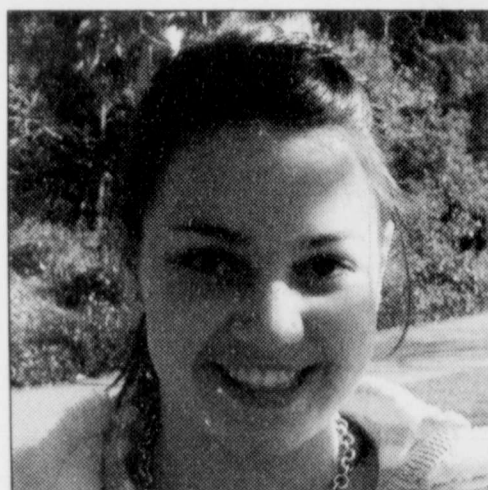
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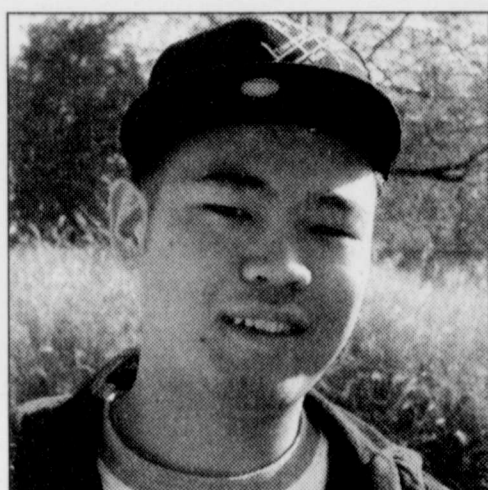
Question of the day:

Will the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program change the way you drive?



"It will make me more nervous. It's like when you have a cop following you and you're more cautious about the way you drive."

-Jessa Yurosek
agribusiness
sophomore



"I'll probably drive the same way but I think other people will be more cautious, especially after the bars."

-Vincent Kwong
electrical engineering
senior



"It will probably just change the areas where the radar guns are. I would just slow down around them."

-LaDell Erby
city and regional planning
freshman



"I'd like to think that this will help cut down driving incidents, but in reality I probably won't change the way I drive and I don't think most people will either."

-Megan Mahoney
communications studies
junior



"I'll definitely change by the radar, but it's like, if you got to get somewhere, you got to get somewhere and you're going to drive fast."

-Reba LeBlanc
environmental management
and protection
junior

Secret court to approve domestic spying program

Lara Lakes Jordan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department, easing a Bush administration policy, said Wednesday it has decided to give an independent body authority to monitor the gov-

ernment's controversial domestic spying program.

In a letter to the leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said this authority has been given to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and that it

already has approved one request for monitoring the communications of a person believed to be linked to al-Qaida or an associated terror group.

The court orders approving collection of international communications — whether it originates in the United States or abroad — was issued Jan. 10, according to the two-page letter to Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

"As a result of these orders, any electronic surveillance that was occurring as part of the Terrorist Surveillance Program will now be conducted subject to the approval of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court," Gonzales wrote in the letter, a copy of which was

obtained by The Associated Press.

"Accordingly, under these circumstances, the President has determined not to reauthorize the Terrorist Surveillance Program when the current authorization expires," the attorney general wrote.

The Bush administration secretly launched the surveillance program in 2001 to monitor international phone calls and e-mails to or from the United States involving people suspected by the government of having terrorist links.

The White House said it is satisfied that the new guidelines meet its concerns about national security.

"The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has put together

its guidelines and its rules and those have met administration concerns about speed and agility when it comes to responding to bits of intelligence where we may be able to save American lives," White House press secretary Tony Snow said.

Snow said he could not explain why those concerns could not have been addressed before the program was started. He said the president will not reauthorize the present program because the new rules will serve as guideposts.

The secret panel of judges, known as the FISA court, was established in the late 1970s to review requests for warrants to conduct surveillance inside the United States. The Bush administration had resisted giving the court final approval over the Terrorist Surveillance Program, even when communications involved someone inside the country.

A federal judge in Detroit last August declared the program unconstitutional, saying it violates the rights to free speech and privacy and the separation of powers. In October, a three-judge panel of the Cincinnati-based appeals court ruled that the administration could keep the program in place while it appeals the Detroit decision.

Additionally, the Justice Department's inspector general is investigating the agency's use of information gathered in the spying program. In testimony last fall in front of the Senate panel, FBI Director Robert Mueller said he was not allowed to discuss classified details that could show whether it has curbed terrorist activity in the United States.

Congressional intelligence committees have already been briefed on the court's orders, Gonzales said in his letter. It was sent to the committee the day before he is set to testify before the panel, which oversees the Justice Department.

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Briefs

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— A young mother who claimed she tossed her three young sons in San Francisco Bay to send them to heaven was declared criminally insane Wednesday by a judge who spared her a possible life sentence.

The rare ruling came a day after jurors found LaShuan Harris, 24, guilty of second-degree murder in the drownings of her three boys in 2005.

The decision will void the jury verdicts and Harris will be sent to a mental hospital indefinitely instead of state prison. She can be released if doctors find her legally sane.

...

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— The median price of a home in California increased slightly to \$474,000 in December, while sales for the month fell to their slowest pace in 10 years, a real estate research firm said Wednesday.

The statewide median home price reflected a 3.5 percent jump from \$458,000 a year ago, and a 1.1 percent climb from the November figure, according to San Diego-based DataQuick Information Systems.

Six of the state's 15 most-populous counties saw annual price declines.

The biggest percentage drop occurred in San Diego County, where the median home price fell 6.4 percent to \$483,000 from the year-ago period.

National

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The Democratic-controlled House voted overwhelmingly to cut interest rates on need-based student loans Wednesday, steadily whittling its list of early legislative priorities.

The legislation, passed 356-71, would slice rates on the subsidized loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent in stages over five years at a cost to taxpayers of \$6 billion. About 5.5 million students get the loans each year.

Though clearly popular, the legislation sparked a debate over where to set the nation's education priorities — helping college graduates pay off their debts or expanding federal grants for low-income students.

...

SAN ANTONIO (AP)

— An icy storm blamed for at least 60 deaths in nine states spread snow and freezing rain across Texas all the way to the Mexican border Wednesday, closing the Alamo, glazing freeways and immobilizing communities unaccustomed to such cold.

Accumulations were light by many regions' standards — the Dallas area topped out at a half-inch of snow, and more than 3 inches piled up west of Fort Worth. But hundreds of airline flights were canceled, tens of thousands of electricity customers lost power and a 300-mile stretch of Interstate 10 was closed.

International

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The announcement Wednesday of the killing of Abu Sulaiman, a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf militant group, represents a major blow against one of the world's most notorious terror organizations.

Sulaiman, a 41-year-old whose real name is Jainal Antel Sali Jr., left a legacy of lethal attacks and ransom kidnappings — outrages that put him on both the U.S. and the Philippine most-wanted lists.

...

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

— The Somali parliament stripped the speaker position Wednesday from a top lawmaker who was closely associated with the recently ousted Islamic movement, a move the European Union said was disappointing and could hurt reconciliation efforts in the restive country.

Diplomats said the fired speaker, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, was capable of pulling together moderate elements in Somalia's Islamic movement. Wednesday also saw the government's disarmament efforts receive a boost with three major warlords handing over vehicles and men.

Deputy Speaker Osman Ilmi Boqore announced the move against Aden in proceedings broadcast live on HornAfrik Radio.

Republican war critic, Democrats offer resolution against Bush plan for Iraq

Anne Flaherty

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A group of senators including a Republican war critic announced agreement Wednesday on a resolution opposing President Bush's 21,500 troop buildup in Iraq, setting their marker for a major clash between the White House and Congress over the unpopular war.

The non-binding resolution, which was also gaining interest from a second Republican senator, would symbolically put the Senate on record as saying the U.S. commitment in Iraq "can only be sustained" with popular support among the American public and in Congress.

"I will do everything I can to stop the president's policy as he outlined it Wednesday night," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican and potential 2008 presidential candidate, who joined Democrats at a press conference on the resolution.

"I think it is dangerously irresponsible," Hagel said.

Even as skeptical Republicans were summoned to private meetings with Bush and national security adviser Stephen Hadley at the White House, Bush's aides made clear that the Capitol Hill challenge would be met aggressively by the administration.

Presidential spokesman Tony Snow said resolutions passed by Congress will not affect Bush's decision-making.

"The president has obligations as a commander in chief," he said. "And he will go ahead and execute them."

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., a chief author of the Senate resolution, said it says "we do not support increased troops, deeper military involvement" and

calls for shifting the mission of U.S. troops from combat to training, counterterrorism and protecting Iraq's territorial integrity.

He said it also calls for "the greater engagement of other countries in the region in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq."

The resolution does not call for a withdrawal of troops or threaten funding of military operations, as many Democrats have suggested. Instead, the legislation says the U.S. should transfer responsibility to the Iraqis "under an appropriately expedited timeline," though it is not specific.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, told reporters that she is considering supporting the resolution and said she believed it heads in the right direction.

"I want to make sure it's something I can support," said Snowe, who has been adamantly opposed to the increase in troops.

The group planned to introduce the resolution Wednesday, with a review by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Jan. 24, one day after Bush delivers his State of the Union address.

Hagel's agreement to help Democrats champion the resolution amounts to a setback to the administration and to Bush, who has argued vehemently that some 21,500 additional U.S. troops are needed to help the Iraqi government calm sectarian violence in Baghdad and Anbar province.

Bush announced on Jan. 10 that he planned to increase the 130,000 U.S. forces in Iraq with an additional 21,500 troops.

The resolutions in Congress seemed likely to be largely symbolic and they would not affect the Pentagon's war budget or challenge the president's authority over U.S. forces. Such votes, however, could be a shot across the bow to Bush.

see Resolution, page 6

Cal senators aim to take lead on efforts to curb global warming

Erica Werner

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer are embracing two different approaches to fighting global warming as the new Democratic-led Congress prepares to take action on the issue.

Feinstein introduced legislation Wednesday aiming to cut electricity sector emissions by 25 percent below levels projected to be reached by 2020. Her bill would install a "cap and trade" approach that would allow power companies to buy, sell and trade "credits" allowing them to emit a certain amount of pollution.

Her approach has support from several power companies including Pacific Gas and Electric.

Boxer has co-sponsored legislation imposing more stringent carbon emission reductions aiming to cut emissions to 80 percent below

1990 levels in 2050. The bill she supports does not take a cap and trade approach, which is opposed by some environmentalists, and does not have the industry support of Feinstein's legislation.

years, something that Congress has not been able to do in the past because of opposition from the Bush administration and majority Republicans.

Failure to act on global warming would be "catastrophic," Feinstein said at a news conference.

"If we act now and act with purpose, the most serious consequences can be averted," she said.

A number of other senators have also offered global warming legislation, including GOP Sen. John McCain of Arizona. As the new chair of the Senate's environment committee, it will fall to Boxer to work on reconciling some of the competing approaches, and

she's planning a hearing later this month for senators to discuss their legislation.

"What we're doing now is welcoming everybody's ideas. This one is a very important one with a focus on utilities," Boxer said of Feinstein's legislation.

If we act now and act with purpose, the most serious consequences can be averted.

—Dianne Feinstein
Senator of California

Both Democrats are citing California's landmark anti-global-warming law, passed last year, which imposed the nation's first cap on greenhouse gas emissions. They're also both optimistic about the opportunity to get legislation passed on the issue in the next two

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Cancer deaths in U.S. drop for the second year in a row

Mike Stobbe
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The tide has turned in the nation's battle against cancer.

Cancer deaths in the United States dropped for the second year in a row, health officials reported Wednesday, confirming that the trend is real and becoming more pronounced, too.

The news was cause for celebration among doctors and politicians.

"It's very exciting," said Dr. Felice Schnoll-Sussman, a cancer physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. "When we saw the first decline, the number wasn't that enormous. But once you start to see a trend like this, it obviously makes you feel like 'We must be doing something right!'"

Cancer deaths in the U.S. in 2004 fell to 553,888 — a drop-off of 3,014 deaths, or 0.5 percent, from the year before, according to a review of U.S. death certificates conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics and released by the American Cancer Society.

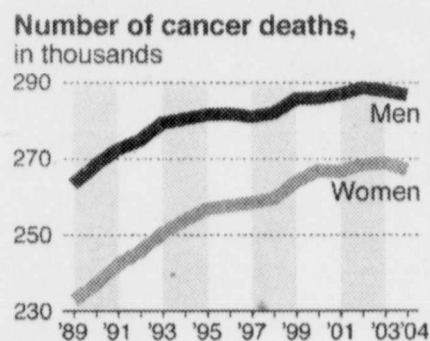
Cancer deaths also fell in 2003, the first drop seen since 1930. But that decline was so small — just 369 deaths — that experts were hesitant at the time to say whether it was a triumph of medicine or just a statistical fluke.

Now, it appears "it's not only continuing; the decrease in the second year is much larger," said Ahmedin Jemal, an American Cancer Society researcher.

see Cancer, page 13

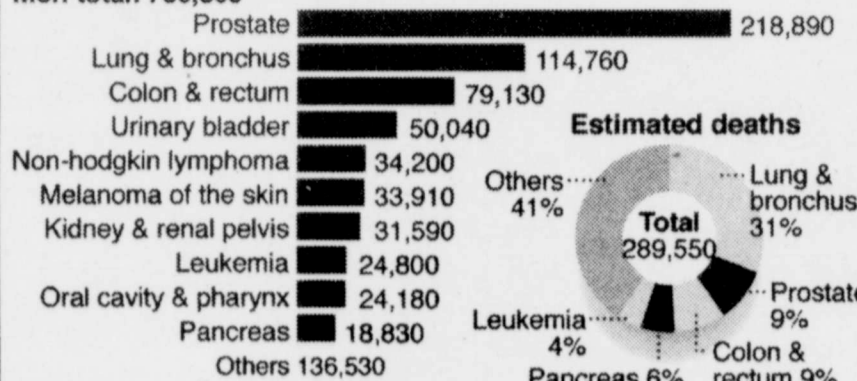
U.S. Cancer deaths drop

Cancer deaths in the United States have dropped for a second straight year while more than 1.4 million new cases and 559,000 deaths are projected this year, the American Cancer Society reported.

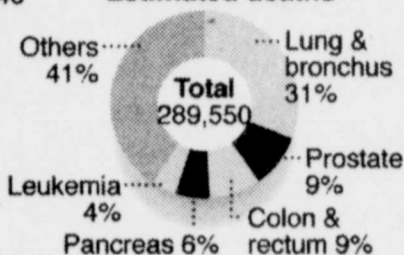


Estimated new cancer cases in 2007

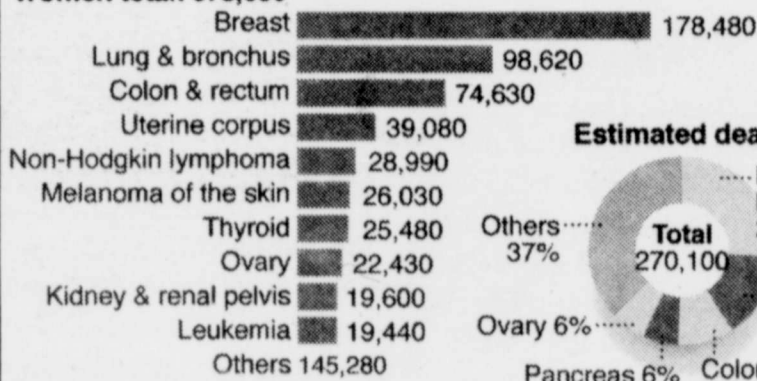
Men total: 766,860



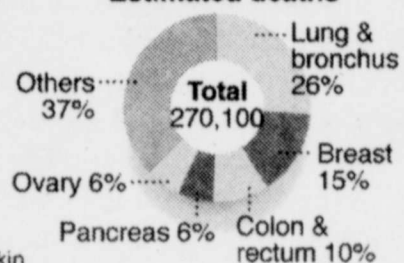
Estimated deaths



Women total: 678,060



Estimated deaths



NOTE: Excludes basal and squamous cell skin cancers and in situ carcinomas except urinary bladder

Resolution

continued from page 5

The resolutions also would help Democrats measure GOP support for more aggressive legislative tactics, such as cutting off funds for the war.

Such a vote puts many Republicans in an uncomfortable position. They will have to decide whether to stay loyal to an unpopular GOP president and risk angering voters disillusioned by the war or buck the party line.

Republicans are crafting alternative proposals, including a House bill introduced by Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, that would vow to protect funding for U.S. troops in combat. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is considering a resolution expressing support for the findings by the bipartisan Iraq Study Group.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said Wednesday she thinks there should be a cap on U.S. troops in Iraq and said she wants "to condition American aid to the Iraqis on their meeting political benchmarks."

"I am opposed to this escalation," she said on NBC's "Today" program. "The Bush administration has frankly failed to put any leverage on this government," said Clinton, considered a likely 2008 Democratic presidential front-runner, although she has not yet entered the race.

Bush has been trying to sell his revised war plan to the public in a

series of television interviews. He told PBS's Jim Lehrer in an interview broadcast Tuesday that keeping his old policies in place would lead to "a slow failure," but withdrawing from Iraq, as some Democrats and other critics suggest, would result in an "expedited failure."

"I am frustrated with the progress," Bush said. "A year ago, I felt pretty good about the situation. I felt like we were achieving our objective, which is a country that can govern, sustain and defend itself. No question, 2006 was a lousy year for Iraq."

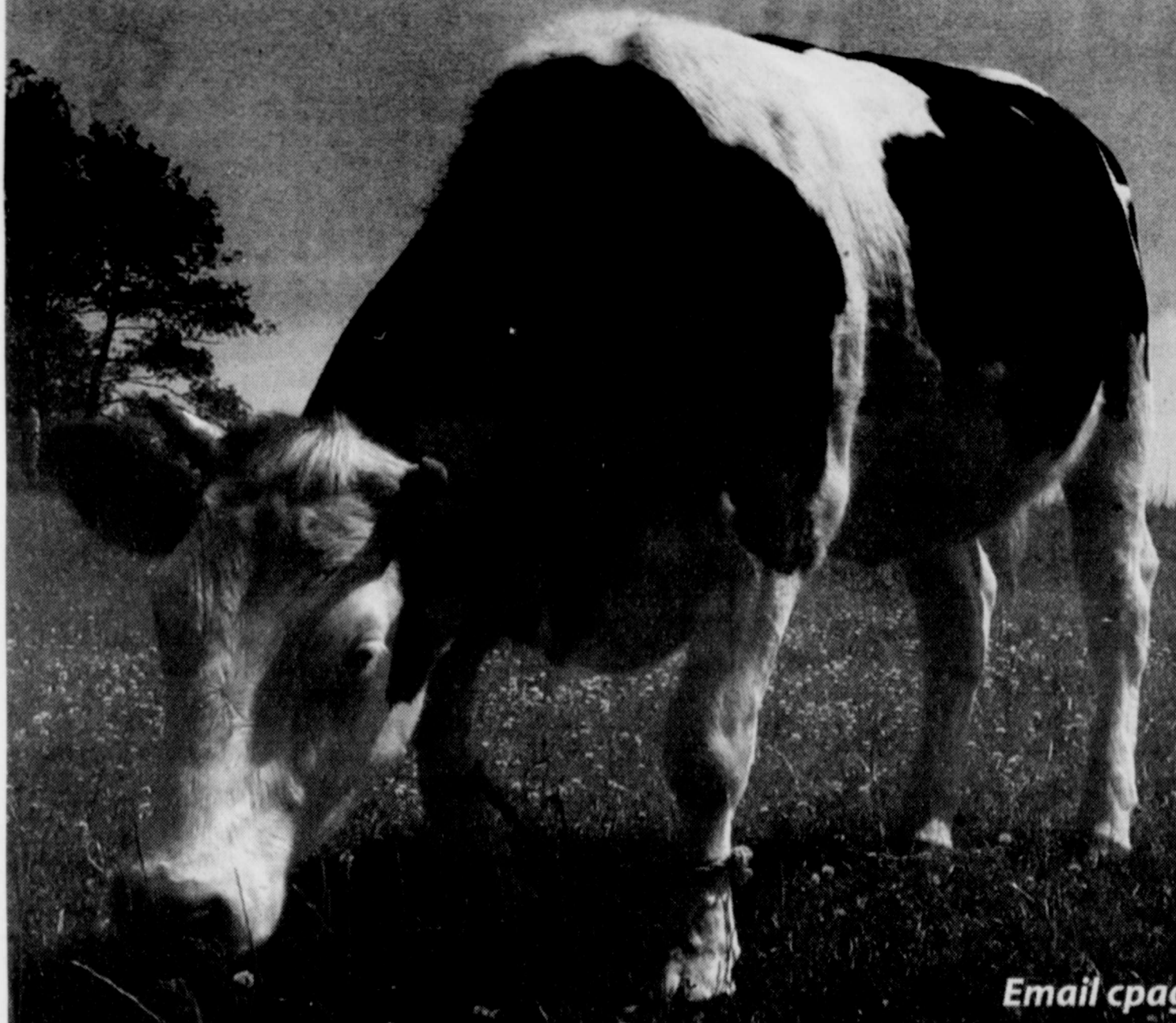
Several GOP members of Congress have offered only lukewarm endorsements of Bush's plan. Lining up behind Bush in the Senate are Republican stalwarts and a few members who have long backed sending more troops to Iraq, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Acknowledging their party is divided on Iraq, Republican leaders are trying to stave off a showdown in Congress by casting Democratic efforts as a political ploy to embarrass the president.

The White House cautioned lawmakers about the consequences of voting against a buildup.

"The one thing the president has said is, whatever you do, make sure you support the troops," press secretary Tony Snow said at the White House. "And the question people who support this resolution will have to ask is, how does this support the troops?"

2007



AG

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Mustang Daily

TIME CAPSULE

January 18

- 1904 English movie star Cary Grant is born.
- 1939 Jazz legend Louis Armstrong records "Jeepers Creepers."
- 1944 The New York Metropolitan Opera House hosts a jazz concert for the first time in history.
- 1964 The Beatles appear on the Billboard magazine charts for the first time.

POLYBILL

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Check out what's going on in SLO County this week. Whether it's art, film, music, theater or culture, POLYBILL posts the latest events.

"Epic," a new photography exhibit of outdoor images taken by Cal Poly rock climbers, runs in the ASI Epicenter Art Gallery until Jan. 31. The Epicenter is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 756-5807 for more information.

"Go Further," the new award-winning documentary starring Woody Harrelson, is showing at the San Luis Obispo Film Library Friday at 7 p.m. The film follows Harrelson as he takes a small group of friends on a bio-fuelled bus-ride down the Pacific Coast Highway to show people that there are "greener" ways of living. There is a recommended donation of \$5.

The Cal Poly A Capella group "Take it SLO" travels down to UCSB this Saturday to compete in The International Championship of Collegiate A Capella quarterfinals. This is the group's first competition. Break a leg!

WWW.MUSTANGDAILY.NET

JESSICA GREENWALT MUSTANG DAILY

American legend Twain comes to Cal Poly

Devan McClaine
MUSTANG DAILY

Although he is 171 years old, Mark Twain will be coming to the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center Saturday night. No need to thank cryogenics, cloning or any other modern medical marvel, as the literary giant will appear in the form of actor Hal Holbrook.

Holbrook, who is 100 years the junior of the late Samuel Clemens, will resurrect the great American author in what has widely been described as a legendary stage performance.

The actor began the show "Mark Twain Tonight!" in 1959 at New York's 41st Theater.

By 1966 the show debuted on Broadway, which earned Holbrook a Tony Award for his efforts. The performance was later recorded for CBS, earning Holbrook an Emmy award.

The performance has always been unique due to the fact Holbrook is completely alone on stage. The core of the act comes from over 14 years of Twain's own material, including his legendary written works.

Holbrook recaptures the wit and intensity of an American legend. If there is any doubt as to the dedication Holbrook brings to the stage, consider the fact that filmmaker Ken Burns consulted Holbrook before beginning his documentary on Twain.

Halbrook is a veteran of numerous films and TV shows, including "All the President's Men," "The West Wing" and "The Sopranos." By his own estimate, Holbrook has



COURTESY PHOTO

Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor Hal Holbrook pauses during a dramatic moment in his one-man show "Mark Twain Tonight!"

performed "Twain Tonight" more than 2,000 times. He has limited the show to 20 to 25 annual performances recently.

Twain is by all accounts the "father of the American novel." Born Samuel Clemens, he took his pen name while traveling west on the Mississippi River. Riverboat captains used to shout, "mark twain" (or two fathoms), an axiom of the time for safe water.

Twain is best known for his fictional works "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "The

Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

In addition to being an accomplished writer, Twain was a satirist and ardent social critic. Twain even refused to join the Confederate Army during his time in Missouri. Twain died in 1910, widowed and in debt.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday in Sidney Harman Hall at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are sold out, but check for student rush two hours before the show starts.

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'The Sweet Escape' not so sweet

Taylor Moore
MUSTANG DAILY

You have to hand it to her: Gwen Stefani has balls (metaphorically speaking, of course). With the release of her new album "The Sweet Escape," Stefani definitely pushes the limits of normalcy. But fans of her previous and first solo album, 2004's "Love. Angel. Music. Baby." (which earned her seven Grammy nominations and one win), and of her days as the lead singer of rock/pop/ska band No Doubt are wondering where the old Stefani went.

No, the shit is not bananas this time around. Sure, "Wind It Up"—that catchy, pop song with yodeling from Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music"—is all over the radio and music video networks, but there is only so much of the bubblegum/synthesized music listeners can take.

A majority of the 13 songs on the album are ballads, something new for Stefani, and something she

should save for other artists to handle. "Breakin' Up" and "Early Winter" are Stefani's attempts at reaching the listeners' emotions, but both fail to accomplish this. Most listeners are more interested in listening to songs similar to smash hits "Hollaback Girl" and "Bubble Pop Electric."

Songs like "4 in the Morning," "Orange County Girl," and "Yummy" are repetitive in lyrics and beats:

"I'm feeling Yummy head to toe (you see me),

Ain't got no patience so let's go (you see me),

Look, I'm diet drama,

Wanna spend the night? Don't bring pajamas,

Man there's so much heat beneath these clothes (you see me)."

The lyrics in "Yummy" obviously do not impress, and it sounds like an elephant is dying in the background of this hip-hop beat song, which features rapper/producer Pharrell.

Also featured on the album is rap-

per Akon in "The Sweet Escape," which, similar to "Wind It Up," is one song listeners will find replaying in their heads because of the funky backgrounds and pop-y lightheartedness.

Plenty of people will enjoy her new music despite these faults. The upbeat songs can get just as addicting as the candy she talks about in her lyrics. Much like her last album, Stefani pushes the limits of popular music and attempts to be as original as possible.

However, this time, she tries too hard to be innovative and ends up sounding bizarre.

In the end, "The Sweet Escape" begs the question where the old Stefani has gone. With No Doubt, she was recognized for her punk style and distinctive voice and listeners loved her for it. Now, as pop royalty, her new eccentric approach to music is pushing the old fan base away.

Ultimately, Stefani's originality fails to produce music capable of



COURTESY PHOTO

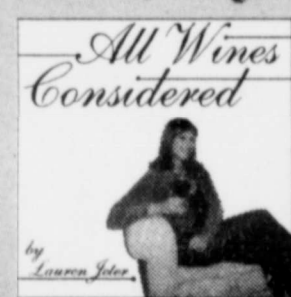
Rock/Pop princess Gwen Stefani's second solo album "The Sweet Escape" was released on Dec. 5 and peaked at No. 3 on The Billboard 200 on Dec. 23.

impressing listeners. If anything, Stefani has a few fun tracks for the fans. But for those interested in finding a new album to listen to from beginning to end, "The Sweet Escape" is not it.

SPOTLIGHT

Columnist Lineup

Monday



Wine
Lauren Jeter

Tuesday



Music
Graham Culbertson

Wednesday



Book Reviews
Laura Rasavan
Haley Stocking
Emilie Egger

Thursday



Pop Culture
TBD

Dick's new CD not so funny

Matt Sundberg
KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Andy Dick confuses me. How can a man seemingly without talent manage to keep working in Hollywood? The answer: cameos in movies. Rarely a year goes by where Dick does not make an uncomfortable cameo in a big budget movie, from "Zoolander" to "Road Trip" to "Old School," in which he often plays a gay man.

In fact, I didn't even know he was a stand-up comedian until I listened to his up-coming compact disc, "Andy Dick: Do Your Shows Always Suck?" The comedy album, performed before a crowd of college students, is a collection of 34 tracks with such wacky titles as "Beautiful Urinal" and "Dirty Sanchez vs. Hot Karl."

Dick starts out the show by asking the crowd if their school is a dry campus. Turns out it's not, which is good news for him. To enjoy this album, a blood alcohol level of at least 0.08 is required.

Dick's comedy is all over the place in this CD; he covers an unusually wide variety of topics including his own experiences in therapy, sexy times at the Playboy Mansion, Ellen DeGeneres, being an adopted kid, Pocahontas and even sexual activities with wombats. None of the stories relate to any of the others and the whole album is basically nothing more than Dick's stream of consciousness at that moment, with him occasionally pointing out certain people or things in the audience and com-

menting on them. His material is so random and nonsensical that I strongly believe he took hallucinogenic drugs before the show.

Dick also dishes out a lot of dirt about his fellow celebrities. In one

track, he talks about his experiences on "Less Than Perfect," his failed comedy sitcom on ABC, and how he would have slept with Sara Rue, his red-headed co-star, if she wasn't fat. In another track, he talks about his own sexual relations with Trishelle from "The Real World."

About a third of the CD's 34 tracks are musical numbers, with Dick strumming his acoustic guitar and

having a strange man on stage next to him sing backup vocals every few lines. As I have come to expect from Andy Dick, most of these songs are mind-numbingly ridiculous, as he sings about everything from his own curvy genitalia to chocolate martinis to "squirrels being better than girls."

When he's not singing or going off on a tangent or heckling attractive women in the audience, there really are only about 20 minutes of actual comedy in this CD, and I'm sorry to say it's not very good. Andy Dick's humor is understandably an acquired taste, and this album tastes foul. Even fans of the actor will be disappointed by this comedy routine. My advice to Mr. Dick: Stop doing stand-up, and hold out for the cameo in "Old School 2."

"Andy Dick: Do Your Shows Always Suck?" will come out Feb. 20.



COURTESY PHOTO

Comedian Andy Dick lacks talent in his latest stand-up comedy CD, "Andy Dick: Do Your Shows Always Suck?"

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Rachael Ray revolutionizes cooking

Emily Rancer
MUSTANG DAILY

It all started with a little E.V.O.O and before America knew it, Rachael Ray had almost single-handedly revolutionized the way we cook. The spunky and energetic host of "30-Minute Meals" got Americans back into the kitchen with easy, healthy and delicious recipes — but not necessarily because of her TV shows (she has five, by the way) — but because of the Internet.

The era of heavy, hardback cookbooks is over, replaced instead by a plethora of free recipes online. In just two years, the entire way Americans have cooked for centuries has been replaced.

And it's not just Ray who has paved the way — there are thousands of places to access recipes besides foodnetwork.com. And instead of having just one recipe for a particular food in a cookbook, users can now look up thousands of variations online to

find just what they're looking for.

Essentially, the entire way we cook and gather recipes has been turned inside out and upside down. Just a simple search for a red velvet cake recipe online produced 489,000 results. This even includes the recipe for a cake that Ray used on her self — entitled morning show just a couple weeks ago.

With the Internet, recipes have become interactive too. With those old Betty Crocker cookbooks, you never knew if the end result was remotely like what the recipe had intended. But with sites like foodnetwork.com, users can actually watch those recipes being made by stars like Paula Deen and, of course, Ray.

The site also offers cooking tips for beginners, like which knives to use when cutting different foods, which olive oils work best and how to thicken up soups. This has inspired younger users, rather than middle-aged housewives, to give cooking a shot. Suddenly, Top Ramen doesn't have to be the sta-

ple of a college student's diet thanks to all the other possibilities the Internet offers.

In the era of the Betty Crocker cookbook, there was no way of knowing which recipes were great and which ones tasted like roasted Play—Doh. Again, cooking Web sites have solved this problem almost completely. Now, users can make recipes, decide if they're good, and review them online. This turns the rigid, formulaic approach to cooking around, letting users be the ultimate critics who suggest ways to improve recipes.

Television may have helped get Rachael Ray's career off the ground, not to mention new words like "Yumm—O" and techniques like microwaving lemons. But it was ultimately the Internet that spread her creative recipes faster than it took her potato fritters to brown. Now everyone has the chance to impress friends with their cheap and easy meals, without even having a grease-splattered cookbook in sight.



MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Lead singer Dominic Castillo and his "Rock Savants" bandmates roll into their hometown of San Luis Obispo to rock Cal Poly UU Hour.

'Savants' to rock UU Hour

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants, a local indie rock band, will perform works from their newly recorded album "VOL.ii" today during UU Hour.

The band has played on campus numerous times but just recently began playing as a trio, no longer performing with a bass player.

A well-known group to many locals, Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants has performed at Downtown Brewing Co., Frog and Peach and Linnaea's Cafe, and recently returned from their North West tour.

"We want well-named bands playing great shows," said Michael Annuzzi, Cal Poly's musical entertainment supervisor. "They are a local band that is keeping the local music alive, but they are also a well-known local band."

Dominic Castillo said the band will perform music they are currently recording and from their newest album.

"The syllabus for Thursday is going to be a lot of new stuff,"

Castillo said. "You know, you fall in love with your latest songs and you just want to play those ones, and you don't care about the other stuff."

Although "VOL.ii" was recorded locally, it was mixed by engineer Stephane Guyot in New York City. Guyot's mixing gave the album more of an edge, Castillo said.

Even with the recent release of "VOL.ii," Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants are working on the release of additional works.

"We have another five song EP coming out in about three months," Castillo said. "We have a full length coming out in about eight months to a year."

The band will also release a new song every month for the next six months to download off their MySpace Web site.

Although the band will continue their touring, Castillo said they always enjoy coming back to play at Cal Poly.

"It's our hometown and it's a great gig," Castillo said. "And it beats riding in the van for six hours."

UU Hour is from 11 a.m. to noon today in the University Union Plaza.



COURTESY PHOTO

America's new cooking sweetheart Rachael Ray brings her easy recipes and a whole new cooking vocabulary, including words like "Yumm-O" to people all over the country through her shows, including "30-Minute Meals," and Web site www.rachaelray.com.

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(805) 756-6784 fax
mustangdaily@gmail.com e-mail

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managing editor Jennifer Hall
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notices

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January 18, 2007
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Mustang Daily

"They pick their noses and eat Fritos at half-price!"

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Editor in chief: Emily Rancer

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10

DATING COLUMN

Learning new languages: guy talk, girl speak

I love intellectual sparring with the opposite sex.

I'm not exactly sure what started this (bad habit? guilty pleasure?). My training in the art began sometime in elementary school. The boys didn't appreciate having to share the playground with my 8-year-old attempts to start mental tennis matches.

I've improved my rapport with guys since then (I think). My guy buddies know it's just good clean fun; but others must wonder when they see us in a verbal duel. The way I see it, with nothing but one's wits on guard and a (mostly-unsuspecting) male opponent, a little antagonism in communication is so much more interesting.

Oftentimes I find that it's an effective way to wake up said opponent. A snide remark — clever, though not vulgar nor permanently injurious — can work like a defibrillator: it can jolt awake an otherwise humdrum conversation.

However, while a cerebral contest is as effective a pickup as a good cuppa joe, it doesn't work if you have a serious point to get across (and really, what compares with coffee?). Communicating with the opposite sex can be just plain painful sometimes.

Many members of the psychological literati roll their eyes at the whole Mars-Venus deal (I recommend John Gray's book for rec reading, though not for research); but there is certainly some truth to the idea that guys and gals speak different languages.

The research shows that a primary communicative gender difference is that females are generally more well-versed in verbal skills than males, with a more extensive emotional vocabulary with which to describe their feelings. Male vocabulary and thinking structure tend to be more concrete and goal-based. Most of my personal

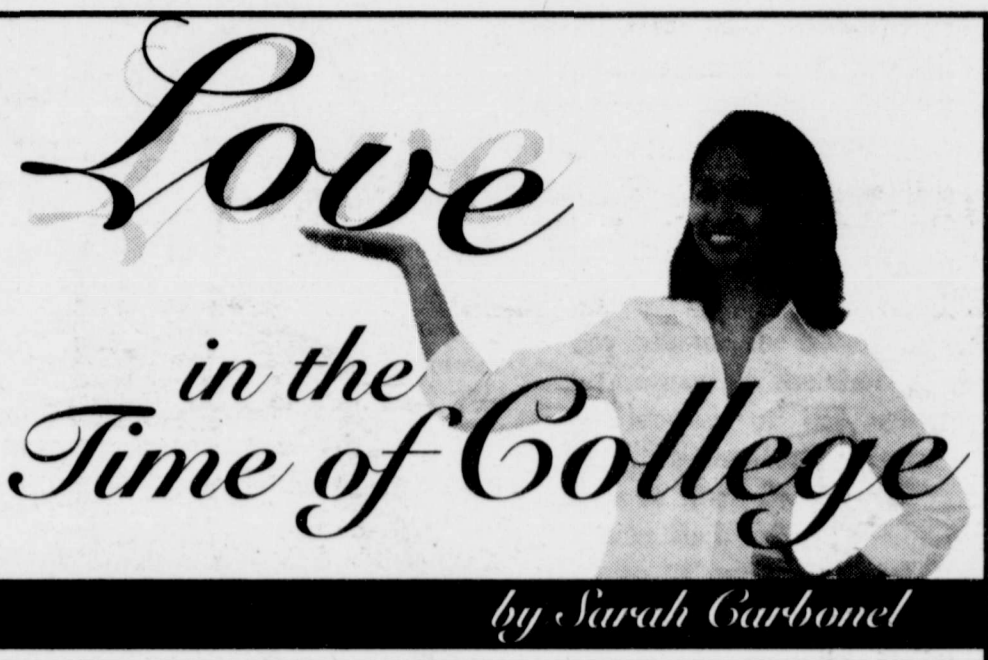
experiences agree.

The so-called keen female emotional awareness comes in handy for my roommates, who both work at the campus children's center and spend all day talking with kids about how they feel ("Ouch, that hurt your feelings, didn't it?"). They need that emotional radar to read the kids and to teach them how to express themselves without yanking each other's hair.

In contrast, more than one guy friend — bless their hearts — comes to mind when I think of that frustrating monosyllabic affliction that has stricken their communicative capabilities. Sometimes there aren't any syllables involved at all — just a series of grunts, whistles, and clicks comprising a foreign language that still stumps my universal translator.

Research aside, we can't doom all males to inherent inadequacies in mushy-talk, and leave all females to emotion-laden dictionaries.

For example: my boyfriend at times seems far more adept at



to how to solve it, all emotions aside.

Communication style, be it XX or XY, depends on the individual — meaning, it's up to you to get your point across as well as you can, and to accurately translate that foreign tongue spoken by the other gender.

So — though I don't object to the idea — instead of dishing out an exorbitant fee on self-help books (because we didn't spend enough on textbooks this quarter)

to help you understand the other half of the population, why not try to make it easier on both sides?

Though we may adamantly deny it, it's shocking how many of us expect an object of affection or significant other to read our minds. Even if you're convinced that the uni-

verse says you two are meant to be, you can't expect him or her to be clairvoyant. Instead of assuming he or she thinks and understands the way you do, err on the side of caution: be as blatantly clear as possible.

Frustrated because he's parked in front of "Age of Empires II" instead of listening intently to your bad day? Irked because she's chattering about drama at work instead of seeing that you've had a hard

day too, and want to relax by over-taking other global dominions?

Be clear, honest, and tactful. Show that you understand and respect his or her wishes, but you also need some help to get what you want too. Compromise. Let him lead his Nordic army for a while, and let him know politely that you'd like to talk either before or after. In exchange, give her your full attention while she's sorting through her feelings, and then you can go back to leading your army to victory.

Frustrated because she's so hard to read and you're afraid you've crossed the line into just-friends territory? Irked because he's been a little too friendly and you've tried to hint at your disinterest without annihilating his ego? Tell him/her how you, feel. Being succinct can save you both a whole lot of heartache.

Men and women do share one thing, if not language: the desire to understand each other. We may never completely master the opposite sex's weird lingo, but with practice, you can have a good working take on the dialect. They're trying to understand you too, so take it easy on them. In the meantime, I'll try to be the bigger person, and "refuse to have a battle of wits with an unarmed person."

Sarah Carbonel is an English and psychology junior and Mustang Daily dating columnist.

If there's a problem,
conversation goes straight
to how to solve it, all
emotions aside.



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GUEST COLUMN

Tell us your thoughts — ASI's listening

What ticks you off? What do you wish would change that would make life that much better?

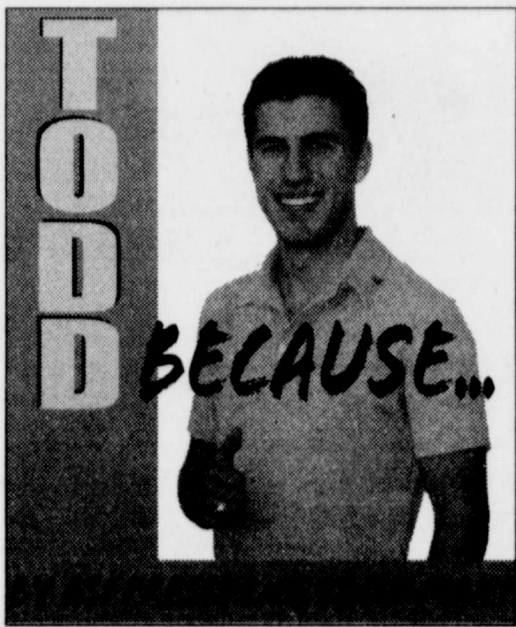
As your ASI president, it is my duty to represent you and the other 18,000 students of Cal Poly to the university administration, the city and beyond. In order to make sure we at ASI are properly representing your ideas, we need to know what's on your mind.

At the end of fall quarter, we began what will become one of the most extensive student outreach efforts in recent Cal Poly history. It began at UU Hour with a simple idea: Give a suggestion or idea and get a free cookie. In just 50 minutes, we were able to reach more than 70 students and receive all sorts of great feedback ranging anywhere from adding more intramur-

al sports to bringing more speakers and debates to campus.

To continue this outreach effort into the new quarter, we have already begun to visit with each of the residence hall councils. These visits have been huge successes. We

will soon be scheduling visits with as many clubs and student organizations as we can in order to hear as many ideas as possible. We'll then take all of the ideas and suggestions we receive and make the most



prominent themes our priorities.

We don't only want feedback about ASI (although it is definitely welcome). We want to hear what you think about anything and everything that would benefit students if it were changed. These issues

the most to students will be the ones we will most heavily advocate for. Whether it is extending the bus service to later evening hours, dealing with the crowded gym, increasing the

healthy options for food on campus, or any other idea you may have, share it with us.

If you'd like to have myself or other members of ASI come talk with your organization and listen to any ideas you may have, just e-mail or call me (the information is below). Let me know when and where your group meets so we can schedule a visit.

If you already have some ideas in mind go ahead and e-mail them to me so we can make sure they are heard.

We exist to represent you and do all that we can to help make your college experience great.

Todd Maki is your ASI president and would love to hear your ideas. Contact him at asipresident@calpoly.edu or 805-756-1291.

STAFF COMMENTARY

Parents whose children copy Saddam's hanging should blame themselves

"Several boys die copying Saddam hanging" was the headline that caught my eye after scanning the "in the news" section of Yahoo news the other day. The information was shocking: 10-year-old Sergio Pelico from Texas, 12-year-old Alisen Akti from Turkey, 9-year-old Mubassah Ali from Pakistan, and at least three others from Yemen and Saudi Arabia have all hung themselves in an attempt to mimic the hanging of Saddam Hussein.

Yet the part that is most disturbing is that people are blaming it on the media. The article quoted Esat Akti, father of Alisen Akti of Turkey, who said that "after watching Saddam's execution (Alisen) was constantly asking, 'How was Saddam killed?' and 'Did he suffer?' ... These television images are responsible for my son's death." It seems that while the footage might have had an effect, blaming the TV would be an easy scapegoat for the parent in denial.

"What kind of a problem could a 12-year-old have to want to kill himself?" Esat Akti said in the Houston Chronicle. Clearly, this boy's father was clueless to the effects that real-life events can have on young people, and thus neglected his duties as a parent to talk with his son about the implications of such a worldly and intense event.

In The Sydney Morning Herald on Jan. 9, another child suicide had been reported after a 15-year-old girl from eastern India also hanged herself from a ceiling fan after watching the execution. Her father said, "We didn't take her seriously when she told us that she wanted to feel the pain Saddam did during the execution."

So then it becomes a question of why parents are not taking their chil-

dren seriously when they see shocking events in the news? At what point should parents stop blaming the media and start realizing that freedom of the press is one of the most sacred and protected rights within the amendments and it's a freedom we should not silence?

With the rise of technology and in this case, the leak of footage caught by a cell phone, I believe that we shouldn't blame the media, whether it be the major broadcasting companies for showing post-death pictures of Saddam or for online outlets like "YouTube," where one has to actually go on their own to view the footage.

Instead, we should expect more out of parents and guardians to do their part in educating their children. I realize that other executions are not aired, so why air this one? Yet it's the principle of a real-life event and depicting truth that we must take into consideration when we see the type of impact that Saddam had on the world. I really don't think there would be any smooth, uncontroversial way of depicting such a controversial man's death.

While in the past 17 days after Saddam's hanging there have been approximately eight child deaths, there is no concrete evidence that it was the media footage that caused them to want to hang themselves. Thus, we should allow the media the choice to decide what should air and what shouldn't, in hopes that the truth, however disturbing, be rightfully brought to the public. Then, perhaps, we can start bringing important issues to our youth to enlighten their sense of reality.

Jackie Pugh is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Stewart, Colbert just comedians, not politicians

Jonathan Gardener
EAST CAROLINIAN (EAST CAROLINA U.)

Monday through Thursday, millions of TV viewers flip to Comedy Central to watch a late-night hour of "fake" satirical news. "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," and its "right-wing" counterpart, "The Colbert Report" have quickly become two of Comedy Central's top-rated shows, fighting over the No. 1 spot with "South Park."

While the two shows spend their timeslot bringing humor to the headlines, not everyone is laughing. Many believe that Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert are corrupting today's youth, leaving them uninformed about politics and uninformed about the media. Do these two comedians really leave their audience in the dark, or is there something more than meets the eye?

A campaign has spread across the United States, mostly by way of the Internet, to have a Stewart/Colbert office in 2008. By way of bumper stickers, T-shirts, and even a stewartcolbert08.com Web site, people everywhere are showing their support of the duo. According to an MSNBC interview with Jon Stewart, the campaign is for naught. The comedian stated that he has no intention of running for office, but says that the campaign is "a real sign of how sad people are" with the government.

But do his supporters think the same way? Are they in real support of a Stewart/Colbert in 2008, or are they expressing discontent with the government?

A similar question applies to the viewers of the show. Do they take "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" as legitimate news sources, or as a comedy show on a comedy channel? Well, this all depends on whether the two shows could be taken as a legitimate news source or not.

According to research done by the University of Pennsylvania during the 2004 elections, viewers who watched "The Daily Show" were more informed about the election than those who watched other late-night talk shows, such as David Letterman and Jay Leno. The research also showed that viewers of Jon Stewart were more informed than some who watched ABC News, CBS and NBC.

Personally, I see "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" as a filter for news. They're quick, 30-minute programs that get straight to the important news, while adding humor to it. So instead of wading through news about celebrity break-ups, or an ongoing fight between Donald Trump and Rosie O'Donnell, I get the big stories right away. Then, if the story interests me, I'll get on CNN's Web site to get a detailed look.

The two shows also report on subjects that other news programs normally wouldn't touch. If there's something important going on in the Senate, Stewart and Colbert will report on it, but they'll also mention the Senator who's doing a crossword puzzle on the Senate floor.

Do "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" corrupt the viewers when it comes to politics? That depends on your definition of corruption. They make their viewers more aware of international politics, while at the same time, making them more likely to question national politics. They ask the questions that need to be asked, but rarely give the entire story.

On their own, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert are harmless. They're comedians who poke fun at politics. The problem lies with those who don't see them as comedians, but see them as political figureheads.

Columnist Lineup

MONDAY

Liberal-Patrick Molnar

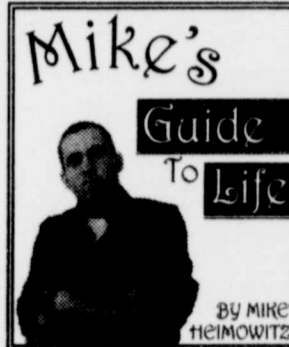
THINKING CAP



PATRICK MOLNAR

TUESDAY

Humor-Mike Heimowitz



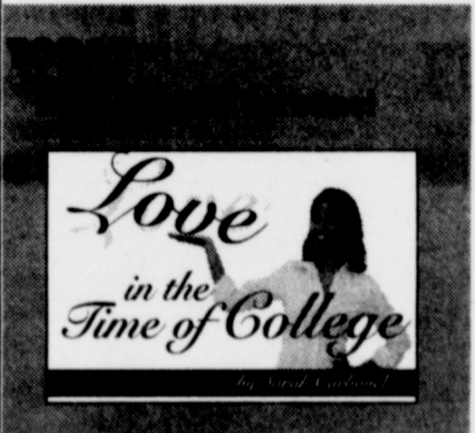
BY MIKE HEIMOWITZ

WEDNESDAY

Conservative-Brian Eller



BRIAN ELLER



FRIDAY

Traveler Checks

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MONDAY-SUSTAINABILITY

The Green Spot

by Jesse Churchill

TUESDAY-HUMOR

The Bunion

by Daniel Gingras

WEDNESDAY

Book Reviews

THURSDAY-MOVIE REVIEWS

The Word on the Screen

by Ryan Chartrand

FRIDAY

How to Survive

by Daniella Orihuela-Gruber

Suicide car bomb in Shiite slum kills 17 people

Kim Gamel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide car bomber killed 17 Shiites at a teeming Sadr City market Wednesday, while gunmen in a predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Baghdad shot up a convoy of democracy workers in an ambush that took the lives of an American woman and three bodyguards.

The attack on the marketplace came one day after car bombings killed scores of university students just two miles away, indicating that al-Qaida-linked fighters are bent on a surge of bloodshed as U.S. and Iraqi forces gear up for a fresh neighborhood-by-neighborhood security sweep through the capital.

Although nobody claimed responsibility for either day's car bombings, such attacks are the hallmark of Sunni militants, who appear to be taking advantage of a waiting period before the security crackdown to step up attacks on Shiites. There had been a relative lull in Baghdad violence since the first of the year.

An Iraqi army officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of security concerns, said the attack on the Western convoy took place in Yarmouk, a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in western Baghdad.

The three-car convoy belonged to the Washington-based National Democratic Institute, according to

Les Campbell, the not-for-profit group's Middle East director. He said the four dead included an American woman along with three security contractors — a Hungarian, a Croatian and an Iraqi. Two others were wounded, one seriously, Campbell said by telephone from Washington. Their names were withheld until their families could be notified.

"It appeared to be an attack with fairly heavy weapons, we don't know what kind," Campbell said.

"We have some information that a firefight ensued. Our security company responded to the attack."

Campbell said the ambush took place at midday as the group



KARIM KADIM ASSOCIATED PRESS

People stand by a car destroyed in a car bomb blast in Shiite district of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday Jan. 17, 2007. Seventeen people died and 33 were wounded in the blast, police said.

returned from a program elsewhere in Baghdad.

Few foreigners and even fewer women have been caught up in

Iraq's recent wave of violence as many Western groups have left and those who remain have tightened security and curtailed their move-

ments after a series of kidnappings and beheadings. The last known American female civilian to be killed was Marla Ruzicka, a 28-year-old rights activist from California who died in a car bombing in April 2005.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki did not give a start date when he announced plans for a new drive to tame the violent capital — the third attempt since he took office May 20. But U.S. and Iraqi reinforcements have started to arrive in Baghdad, and it was expected to begin in about two weeks.

The marketplace explosion took place just before 4 p.m. near a popular commercial area in Sadr City, a sprawling Shiite district of some 2.5 million people in eastern Baghdad.

The blast shattered the windows of nearby shops and restaurants, and blood pooled in the street. Angry Iraqis surrounded the charred mass of twisted metal, all that was left of the explosives-packed car. They tipped the remains on its side and picked off pieces of blackened upholstery.

At least 17 people were killed and 33 people were wounded, police said.

In many parts of the capital, streets were crowded with cars and minivans carrying wooden caskets of the victims from Tuesday's car bombings, which killed at least 70 people and wounded more than 130 at Al-Mustansiriya University. Many vehicles were headed to the holy city of Najaf where Shiites prefer to bury their dead. Other victims were taken to a Sunni cemetery in central Baghdad. The students were from all the country's religious sects.

Hussein Mohammed, a lecturer in the university's French language department, said classes were canceled for two days while workers cleared the debris. "We are trying

see Car Bomb, page 13

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Car Bomb

continued from page 12

to heal our wounds and start again," he said.

The Iraqi parliament stood for a moment of silence and lawmakers and students demanded stepped-up security for schools and universities.

Al-Maliki announced the new security drive Jan. 6, four days before President Bush detailed his version of the plan with an announcement that he was sending 21,500 more U.S. troops to Iraq.

There have been concerns that insurgents would just slip out of the capital to wait out the offensive. Some appear to have left, given the spike in violence in northern Iraq, where Sunni militants have retreated in the past.

State television reported that at least 100 insurgents were killed Wednesday in clashes with Iraqi troops in a predominantly Sunni region northeast of Baghdad. Troops captured dozens of insurgents and seized large amounts of ammunition were seized, the state-run Iraqiya channel said, quoting police. The fighting reportedly took place near the district of Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of the capital.

In oil-rich Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, a suicide car bombing killed 10 people and wounded dozens at a police checkpoint.

In all, police reported 70 people killed or found dead in Iraq on Wednesday. They included 31 bullet-riddled bodies that turned up in Baghdad showing signs of torture, victims of apparent death squads largely run by Shiite militias like the Mahdi Army, which has its stronghold in Sadr City.

The U.S. military also said two more American soldiers died — one Wednesday after suffering wounds during an operation in the Sunni stronghold of Anbar

province west of Baghdad and another who died there Monday.

Al-Maliki, meanwhile, met with the ambassadors of several countries, including the United States, to shore up support for his planned security operation. He pledged to act equally against all gunmen, regardless of sect, his spokesman said. The Shiite prime minister is under heavy criticism over his interference in U.S. attempts to confront Shiite militias during two failed attempts to bring calm to Baghdad.

"We want the international community to understand that the Baghdad security plan is targeting all the outlaws, it does not target a specific group or specific area, rather it targets all Baghdad," said Ali al-Dabbagh, the spokesman.

Throughout the Middle East, Arab leaders were deeply skeptical of the U.S. plan for Iraq, a day after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice tried to sell it to them. Kuwait's emir told Rice that America should work with Iran and Syria, officials said — a move Bush has rejected.

The National Democratic Institute, the group whose convoy was attacked Wednesday, supports democratic processes and institutions worldwide. Its staffers in Baghdad run training programs in democracy and political participation, as well as women's rights. The group has had staffers in Iraq since June 2003, though Campbell would not specify how many, for security reasons.

Kenneth Wollack, president of the organization, said in his Washington office that "this is a tragedy that has hit individuals that have been dedicated to the democratic future of Iraq."

The American woman was the first full-time worker for the group to be killed in Iraq. A security contractor for the organization was killed in March 2004.

Cancer

continued from page 6

Experts are attributing the success to declines in smoking and to earlier detection and more effective treatment of tumors. Those have caused a fall in the death rates for breast, prostate and colorectal cancer — three of the most common cancers. The lung cancer death rate in men has also been falling, but the female rate has reached a plateau.

On a visit to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., President Bush hailed the drop in cancer deaths as a signal that medicine — especially federally funded research — is making strides against a disease that still kills nearly 1,500 Americans a day.

The Cancer Society did not release cancer death data broken down by state, race or ethnicity. Those statistics are to be completed later this year.

The largest drop in deaths among the major cancers was in colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer deaths dropped by 1,110 in men and by 1,094 in women. Experts said much of the credit goes to screening exams such as colonoscopies that detect polyps and allow doctors to remove them before they turn cancerous.

Some doctors say at least part of

the success can be attributed to "the Katie Couric effect." A 2003 study found colonoscopy rates jumped more than 20 percent in the months after the "Today" show host underwent a colonoscopy on national television in 2000, after her husband died of colon cancer.

Increased insurance coverage of colonoscopies has also led to more diagnostic screenings, said Dr. A. Mark Fendrick, the University of Michigan physician who led that study.

For more than a decade, health statisticians charted annual drops of about 1 percent in the cancer death rate — that is, the number of deaths per 100,000 people. But the actual number of cancer deaths still rose each year because of the growing elderly population and the size of the population overall.

Then, in 2003 and 2004, the cancer death rate declined by about 2 percent each year, more than offsetting the effects of aging and population growth.

The American Cancer Society said it believes cancer deaths will continue to drop.

Others shared that optimism.

"We're starting to see some real dividends" from screening, prevention and treatment efforts, said Dr. Otis Brawley, an Emory University researcher specializing in cancer epidemiology.

Clinton wants to cap troops in Iraq, increase troops in Afghanistan

Devlin Barrett

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, a potential presidential candidate, on Wednesday called for capping the number of U.S. troops in Iraq and linking funds for Iraqi security forces to the government's control of the violence-plagued nation.

Back from a weekend trip to Iraq and Afghanistan, the New York senator also called for increasing U.S. forces in Afghanistan, arguing more troops are necessary as Taliban forces are waiting to attack when weather permits.

Clinton was quick to seize the spotlight the day after Illinois Sen. Barack Obama took a major step toward entering the 2008 race. She made a round of appearances on network television and radio and participated in a Capitol Hill news conference.

Clinton said she would offer legislation that would not cut funding to U.S. troops, as some lawmakers want, but would, after a six-month time period, cut off money for Iraqi troops.

She said cutting off funds for security forces and private security contractors who guard many Iraqi leaders would show the U.S. government is serious about imposing "real world consequences" to failing to reduce the sectarian conflict

killing tens of thousands civilians a year.

"I do not support cutting funding for American troops, but I do support cutting funding for Iraqi forces if the Iraqi government does not meet set conditions," Clinton said, appearing at a news conference with the two lawmakers who traveled with her to Iraq and Afghanistan, Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., and Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y.

Clinton argued the Bush administration has failed to put any real pressure on Iraqi leaders at the same time the president is escalating the U.S. commitment there by sending 21,500 more troops.

"I think we will eventually have to move to tougher requirements on the administration to get their attention," said Clinton, arguing that she wanted "a change of course, not adding more troops pursuing a strategy that under present circumstances, cannot be successful."

More than 130,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq.

White House spokesman Tony Snow dismissed Clinton's proposal.

"The idea of placing a cap on troops — what it does is something that no commander in chief would want to have, which is it binds the hands of the commander in chief and also the generals and frankly also the troops on the ground,"

Snow said.

Clinton's bill would, if Iraqis cannot show progress after six months, require Bush to get congressional authority for any additional troops in Iraq.

Even as she jousts with the White House, Clinton also is feeling heat from Democratic rivals, due largely to her position as the presumptive front-runner in a presidential race she has yet to enter.

On Wednesday, Obama called Iraq troop escalation "a terrible consequence of the decision to give him the broad, open-ended authority to wage this war in 2002," an indirect shot at the voting record of Clinton and other Democrats.

Obama did say he favors a cap of U.S. troop levels in Iraq and the phased redeployment of troops, both of which Clinton support.

In a statement, Tom Mattzie of the liberal group MoveOn.org said they would like Clinton to "use her powers as a senator to stop the escalation and move toward a redeployment. A key test is how any senator puts words into action. We would welcome her future leadership."

Clinton and Bayh sent a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates Wednesday calling for an increase in Afghanistan of two or possibly three infantry battalions, some 2,300 troops.



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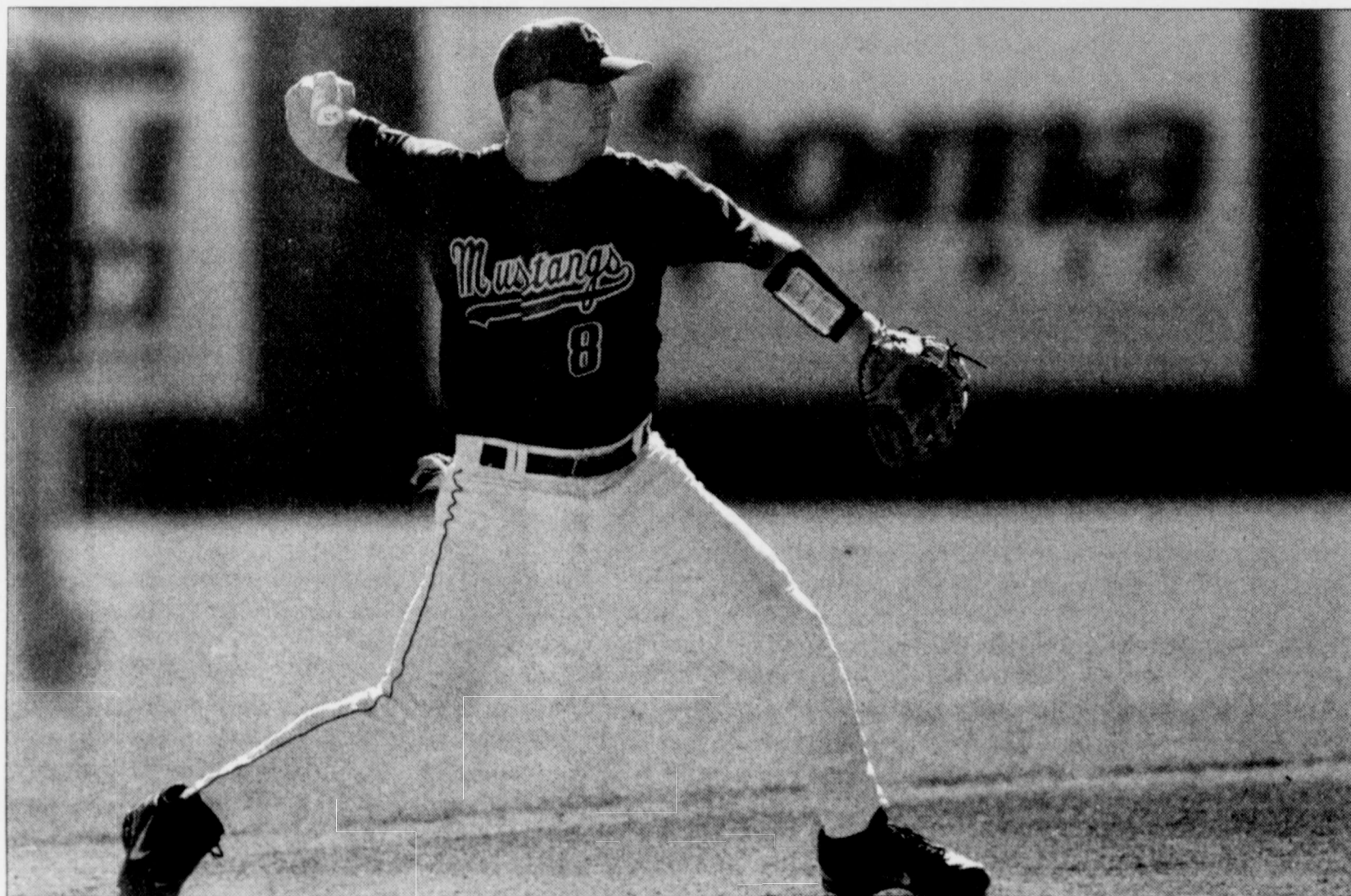
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Staff Member Position (Record, Tiebreaker)	Saints at Bears	Saints at Bears Score	Patriots at Colts	Patriots at Colts Score
1. Kathrene Tiffin, Ast. Spotlight Editor (22-12, -52)	Bears	24-21	Patriots	14-13
2. Devan McClaine, Reporter (22-12, -61)	Saints	23-17	Colts	27-21
3. Paul Bittick, General Manager (21-13, -35)	Saints	27-10	Colts	35-17
4. Ryan Chartrand, Online Editor (21-13, -36)	Saints	27-21	Patriots	24-21
5. Tristan Aird, Sports Editor (21-13, -38)	Bears	17-10	Colts	35-28
6. George Ramos, Adviser (21-13, -48)	Saints	21-10	Patriots	34-31
7. Sara Hamilton, Reporter (19-15, -47)	Saints	30-24	Colts	24-21
8. John Middlekauff, Guest Columnist (14-14, -33)	Saints	24-20	Patriots	27-20
9. Frank Stranzl, Ast. Sports Editor (15-19, -36)	Saints	28-13	Colts	34-27



COURTESY PHOTO

Cal Poly sophomore infielder Brent Morel hit .259 with four home runs and 20 RBI as a freshman last season.

Baseball

continued from page 16
Mustangs last season.

Cal Poly will try to close games out with junior right-hander Marc Nobriga, who posted a 5-3 record and 2.64 ERA for Hartnell College of Salinas last year.

"You want to reload, but when you lose that many guys you have no choice but to throw these (young) guys into the mix," Lee said.

Lee cited Leonard, shortstop Kyle Smith and outfielder Luke Yoder as freshmen who could have an immediate impact.

Lee added that Smith could be "one of the best young players on the West Coast."

Despite the overall youth on the team, the Mustangs do have a solid core of experienced players, although Lee didn't name a single player as the team leader but rather, leadership by committee.

Lee identified the top leaders on the team as sophomores Adam Buschini (.266 batting average last year), Brent Morel (.259) and junior Grant Desme.

"I look forward to teaching the young guys," Desme said. "We're young but we know we can be good right away."

Desme, a junior infielder who hit .287 with 33 RBI last season, welcomes the crucible that is the preseason schedule.

"That's Division I baseball," he said. Both Lee and Desme believe the

Mustangs can be as good as they want to be this year.

Aside from the daunting preseason schedule, the Mustangs play in one of the best conferences in the country, with Cal State Fullerton ranked 12th in the nation.

Lee is not worried about Cal Poly's talent level, but is concerned with "mental barriers" against teams like the Titans, who have taken eight of the last nine meetings from the Mustangs.

"We're going to see what happens when the lights go on," Lee said. "We'll see what kind of competitors we have."

The Mustangs begin the season Jan. 26 at the University of San Diego. Their first home game is Feb. 2 against San Diego State, which is coached by Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn.

Johnny

continued from page 16

anyone could ever dream of. But when all that matters is winning like in the playoffs, Manning just doesn't have what it takes.

Pressure is definitely not a word in

Brady's vocabulary. He has become the most clutch player in all of professional sports, and by far the greatest winner football has seen in a long time. What makes Brady and the Patriots different from everybody else is that the regular season just doesn't really matter.

The postseason is where the Patriots make their mark. They don't have an MVP, a coach of the year or any of those awards that people seem to covet so much. Just rings!

So when Brady is done beating the Colts this weekend, he will be headed to Miami for Super Bowl XLI.

Basketball

continued from page 16

games — three of which in conference — on the road, where they are 0-6 this season.

"You work hard and put yourself in a position to win and you get a couple," Bromley said of capturing road victories. "Then it snowballs and you get greedy and you want more."

With 10 of the next 11 games in conference, where the Mustangs are 1-

3, Stockalper said he hoped the victory would "shot put us into some wins."

Cal Poly started both halves strong, jumping out of the gate with a 13-0 run to take an early 18-6 lead, then a 10-2 run to begin the second half to pull ahead by 18.

In perhaps the only glaring Cal Poly weakness in the game, turnovers plagued the Mustangs throughout the night. They had 10 in the first half and finished the game with 17.

Sacramento State forward Alex Bausley led the Hornets (7-12, 2-4 Big Sky Conference) with 13 points and six rebounds.

CAL POLY MEN'S BASKETBALL UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
1/20	at UCSB	7 p.m.
1/25	at Pacific	7 p.m.
1/27	at Northridge	7 p.m.
2/3	at UC Davis	7 p.m.

Schottenheimer to return to Chargers

Marty Schottenheimer led San Diego to a 14-2 regular season, but is 5-13 in his career in the playoffs.

Bernie Wilson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marty Schottenheimer might be down to one last chance to get the San Diego Chargers to the Super Bowl.

Three days after the talented Chargers melted down in a stunning 24-21 playoff loss to New England, team president Dean Spanos decided Wednesday that bringing Schottenheimer back for the final year of his contract gives San Diego its best chance to win.

Schottenheimer, though, declined the team's offer of a one-year extension for 2008 worth \$4.5 million, with a \$1 million buyout.

The coach didn't offer specific reasons, but they could have to do with the spiraling salaries given to other NFL head coaches, and perhaps to his strained relationship with general manager A.J. Smith.

"Right now, I wasn't comfortable accepting it," said Schottenheimer, who will earn more than \$3 million in 2007, the final year of an extension he received after the 2004 season.

Spanos said Schottenheimer didn't give him a reason.

"I offered what I thought was a fair offer and it was surely up to him to make the decision as to whether to accept it or not, and he chose not to, and I respect that entirely," Spanos said.

With a regular-season record of 200-126-1 with Cleveland, Kansas City, Washington and San Diego, Schottenheimer is the most successful coach never to have reached the Super Bowl.

His 5-13 playoff record has taken on a life of its own. Sunday's loss was his sixth straight in the postseason dating to 1993, and the ninth time a Schottenheimer-coached team lost its opening playoff game. His teams have failed four times to capitalize on the home-field advantage that comes with owning the AFC's No. 1 seed.

He is 47-33 in five seasons with the Chargers, including 35 wins and two AFC West titles in the last three seasons.

Led by league MVP LaDainian Tomlinson, the Chargers were thought by many to be Super Bowl-caliber, with an NFL-best 14-2 record. But they had four turnovers and made numerous other mistakes in losing to the Patriots, their first defeat at home this season.

Speculation grew following the loss that Schottenheimer might be fired, due in part to the front office's expectations of a deep playoff run and his icy relationship with Smith, believed to have developed over personnel moves.

Smith said that following the loss, it wasn't automatic that he would recommend that Schottenheimer return.

"Not in my mind. We had to stop and think," he said.

Smith said he spent Tuesday speaking with Spanos, players, front-office personnel and people around the league about Schottenheimer.

"I made a recommendation which may surprise all of you, that we continue next year with Marty Schottenheimer based on the fact that we are so talented of a football team and the information that I got from everybody was, we're so close," Smith said. "We made some mistakes in that football game and still almost won I just felt that it was the best for this organization to continue."

Raiders bring USC QBs coach Sarkisian back for second interview

The move appears to rebuff the rumors that Oakland would hire either former Cardinals head coach Dennis Green or Chargers wide receivers coach James Lofton.

Josh Dubow
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Oakland Raiders brought in Southern California quarterbacks coach Steve Sarkisian for a second interview Wednesday as the team intensified its search for a new head coach.

Sarkisian, the first candidate to interview after Art Shell was fired, met again with owner Al

Davis and other team executives, a person in the league with knowledge of the search said on condition of anonymity.

The person requested anonymity because the Raiders are not releasing any details about the search. Sarkisian didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

San Diego Chargers receivers coach James Lofton interviewed on Tuesday and his attorney said he expected the sides to continue discussions later this week.

Other candidates who have interviewed for the job are former New York Giants coach Jim Fassel and Raiders defensive coordinator Rob Ryan.

Warriors trade Dunleavy, Murphy to Pacers for Harrington, Jackson in 8-player deal

Golden State also dumped promising second-year power forward Ike Diogu.

Greg Beacham and Cliff Brunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Almost every player involved in the Indiana Pacers' eight-man trade with

the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday is likely to welcome the change of scenery.

The Pacers traded Al Harrington and Stephen Jackson to Golden State for forwards Troy Murphy and Mike Dunleavy in a large, bold deal to shake up two struggling teams.

The Pacers also sent guard Sarunas

Jasikevicius and forward Josh Powell to the Warriors, who gave up forward Ike Diogu and guard Keith McLeod. According to Chris Mullin, the Warriors' vice president and a former player for both teams, the wholesale shuffle will benefit everyone involved.

"This is a situation where both teams feel good about what's going to

happen," Mullin said. "They're all key components. All these guys that are in the deal, they're going to have good roles with their new teams."

Murphy, Dunleavy and Diogu had been reduced to high-priced backups for failing to produce more in new coach Don Nelson's offensive-minded system. Both Murphy and Dunleavy have hefty contracts that allowed Golden State to finish the deal with significantly less financial impact than the Pacers.

Harrington, the most accomplished player in the trade, struggled to get comfortable alongside Jermaine O'Neal in his first season back with Indiana. Meanwhile, Jackson has been dogged by legal troubles and attitude problems all season, embarrassing the club with an early season fight at a strip club and a spat with coach Rick Carlisle last month.

"I think he was in a difficult environment for him," Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said of Jackson, who averaged 14.1 points this season. "No matter what he was going to do, he wasn't going to outlive that environment. So I think it's good for him to go to another city and start fresh, and I think it's good for our team as well."

The deal left injury-plagued Golden State with just six healthy players on its roster for Wednesday night's game against the Los Angeles Clippers — two fewer than the NBA minimum required to avoid forfeiting

a game. The Warriors quickly signed NBA Development League forward Renaldo Major a 10-day contract, and they planned to suit up injured center Adonal Foyle to avoid the forfeit.

Harrington was one of the Warriors' top targets in free agency last season, but went back to Indiana — where he started his career — in a sign-and-trade deal with Atlanta. He averaged 15.9 points and 6.3 rebounds this season, second on the team in both categories to O'Neal, who plays much the same position.

"That's the heartbreak in it," Walsh said. "He would have fit in here, but he was playing (small forward) more than he was playing (power forward). I'm not sure he's a good fit at (power forward) with Jermaine. When you really looked at it, I don't know if the two players complemented each other as well as we thought they could."

Murphy, a former Notre Dame star battling injuries this season, is averaging 8.9 points and 6.0 rebounds — both his lowest totals since his rookie year. Dunleavy, the No. 3 overall pick from Duke in 2002, has scored 11.4 points in another disappointing season, so the deal rid the Warriors of three players who didn't fit with Nelson's ideas.

Mullin signed Dunleavy and Murphy to contract extensions — still worth more than \$80 million — before he hired Nelson.

The Warriors pursued Harrington because the rangy forward should fit their new style of play.

"Al is a guy we've looked at for a while," Mullin said. "Al is a guy that's probably a lot stronger than people know. He can guard his man in the post if need be. He's gotten better over the years."

Jackson has a sharp outside shot, but has been almost nothing but trouble for the Pacers since his involvement in that infamous brawl in the stands at Detroit two years ago. He was involved in a fight outside an Indianapolis strip club on Oct. 6, and is scheduled to go to trial Feb. 12.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

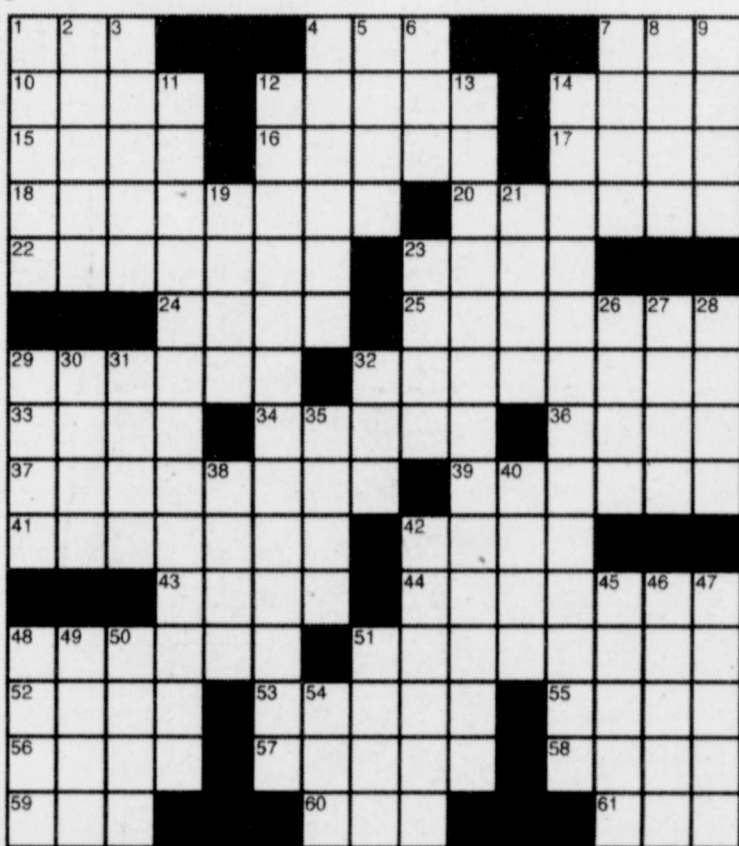
No. 1207

- ACROSS**
- Sounds in a coffee ad
 - Sight in a coffee ad
 - Clothe
 - Hindu V.I.P.
 - Gross unit
 - Proceed with difficulty (through)
 - Maintain
 - Remorseful
 - Something to click
 - Studs
 - Snub
 - Addresses for churches
 - "And she shall bring forth ...": Matthew
 - "Anyone ___?"
 - Like orchard trees

- Time off, maybe
- Semidry
- American white wine
- Run up
- Año nuevo time
- Brand with a giant target in its logo
- Mingle
- Louts
- Where to find Rosa Parks Boulevard
- Life ___ know it
- Deck officer
- Debar
- Hedy of "Ecstasy," 1933
- Tail
- Hospital administration?
- Spinachlike plant
- Pot over a fire

DOWN

- Some show horses
- Montana college town named after a French port
- Say derisively
- Soup or salad
- Fearsome weapons
- Slammer
- Kind of shell
- Effluvium
- Intron and exon site
- Play down?
- Dummy up?
- Line up?
- Bear down?
- Hand (out)
- Joint problem
- Way out there
- Huey, Dewey and Louie, e.g.
- Prefix with spore
- Honor society no-nos
- Put into words



Puzzle by Kelly Clark

- Reader (eclectic magazine)
- Arena sound
- Some jeans
- Dumbstruck
- Supporting shaft
- Depth charge, slangily
- 32-Down option
- One hardly giving a hoot?
- Brings down
- Small fluid holders
- Part of a bowling game
- Run into hard

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OUTERRANKS IBLE
DRY PVT CARBON
KNIGHTERRANT
ADIEUS IRISH
GANGSTERRAP ULM
ANTS SUE ABAA
RAE PETERRABBIT
RAISE ONEACT
COMMUTERRAIL
UNEASE AID HOW
RAZZ LANDBRIDGE
SIZE LSU EASTLA
EROS ESP DOOVER

su do ku								
TODAY'S SOLUTIONS								
5	8	1	2	7	9	6	4	3
3	4	2	8	5	6	7	9	1
9	6	7	4	3	1	5	8	2
7	9	6	3	1	4	2	5	8
8	3	5	6	2	7	9	1	4
2	1	4	5	9	8	3	6	7
6	2	8	9	4	3	1	7	5
4	7	3	1	6	5	8	2	9
1	5	9	7	8	2	4	3	6

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Erickson leads Poly women's tennis team

The Mustangs face two of the seven top-75 opponents on their schedule this weekend in Southern California.

Tristan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly senior tennis player Carol Erickson was hardly afraid to take on the defending NCAA singles champion last Saturday.

In fact, Erickson took third-ranked Cal junior Susie Babos to three games at the Cal Winter Invitational. Babos wound up a 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3 winner, but Erickson feels that making each set competitive in the two-and-a-half-hour match bodes well for the rest of the season.

"I think it proves that Cal Poly women's tennis can compete with the best of them," Erickson said Monday at a weekly press conference. "Being able to do that against (Babos) is really great and helped me a lot."

Erickson and the Mustangs will continue their difficult schedule when they visit USC — ranked third in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll — at 1:30 p.m. Friday and No. 14 Pepperdine at 11 a.m. Saturday. Cal Poly's road trip also includes No. 15 UCLA (Tuesday), Northern Arizona (Jan. 27) and No. 23 Arizona State (Jan. 28).

"It's such an opportunity," Erickson said of the Mustangs' schedule. "Playing the best is only going to make us better. When we go out and play our (Big West) conference tournament in April, we've already looked at everything."

Erickson gave high praise to freshman Brittany Blalock, who was 12-2 and won the first collegiate tournament she ever played in (the Fullerton Invitational) during the fall season.

"I look up to her in so many ways," Erickson said of Blalock. "She's motivating, not only to me, but to her teammates. She's a great role model to all of us. I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful team with me."

Asked whether she has a leadership role on the team, Erickson said, "I feel like I learn from them just as much as they learn from me."

Potential singles matchups over the weekend include Erickson against Pepperdine's 22nd-ranked Bianca Dulgheru and UCLA's 28th-ranked Yasmin Schnack as well as Blalock against UCLA's 35th-ranked Riza Zalameda.

In doubles, Erickson and freshman Steffi Wong — who lost only 8-4 over the weekend to the Cal's second-ranked tandem of Babos and Zsuzsanna Fodor — could face even stiffer competition. Erickson and Wong will likely play against UCLA's 17th-ranked tandem of Zalameda and Schnack and Pepperdine's 21st-ranked Dulgheru and Sylvia Kosakowski.

Mustang baseball team reloads for '07

Cal Poly lost all but three starters and had seven players drafted from last year's 29-27 team.

Devan McClaine
MUSTANG DAILY

In the offseason, the Cal Poly baseball program's incoming freshmen class received high praise and expectations. Collegiate Baseball Newspaper ranked the Mustangs' recruiting class the 20th-best in the nation.

This year, head coach Larry Lee hopes that young talent will translate into victories — fast.

Cal Poly has a preseason schedule littered with a gauntlet of perennial powers, including two of the past four national champions in Rice (2003) and Oregon State (2006). The preseason also features dates with Pac-10 teams USC and Washington. The media picked Cal State Fullerton to win the Big West Conference, meaning Cal Poly will play three of the last four national champions this season.

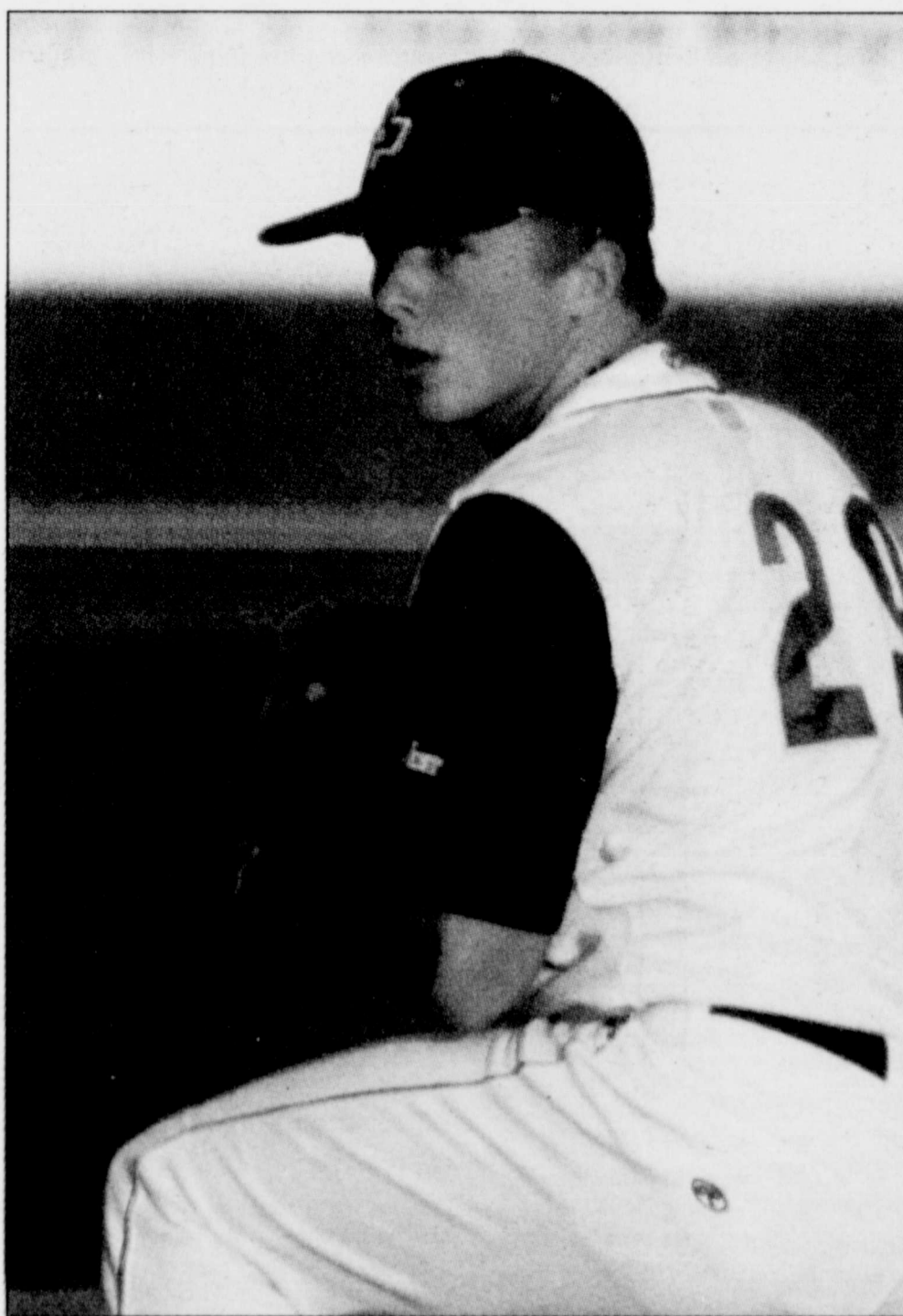
"You want to play the best, period," Lee said. "With a (young) team like this, we're going to find out what kind of team we are early on."

The Mustangs finished last year 29-27. This season, coaches picked the Mustangs to finish fifth in a conference of eight teams.

There is no doubt that youth will play a definitive role on this team as Cal Poly lost all but three starters in the field and lost seven players overall to the major leagues via the draft.

Lee envisions as many as three freshmen and three sophomores in the lineup at any given time.

The pitching staff will also feel



COURTESY PHOTO
Cal Poly sophomore right-hander D.J. Mauldin was 2-2 with a 5.65 ERA as a freshman during the 2006 campaign, in which Cal Poly recorded its third straight winning season.

the void left by starters Gary Daley Jr. and Bud Norris (drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals and Houston Astros, respectively), who combined for more than half of the team's wins last year.

Lee said the probable rotation for the Mustangs will consist of

sophomore right-hander D.J. Mauldin (2-2, 5.65 ERA in 2006), freshman southpaw Matt Leonard and sophomore right-hander Thomas Eager.

Mauldin was the only one of the trio who saw action for the

see Baseball, page 14

Opportunistic 'D' leads Poly men's hoops team to 74-65 win

At 8-8, the Mustangs are at the .500 mark this late in the season for the first time since a 6-6 start to the 2003-04 campaign.

Josh Krane
MUSTANG DAILY

Just as the Sacramento State men's basketball team continued to slash into a once comfortable Cal Poly lead late in the second half, the Mustangs converted two Hornet turnovers into baskets to pull out a 74-65 nonconference victory Tuesday night in Mott Gym.

The Hornets went on a 15-3 run to cut an 18-point Cal Poly lead down to five with 3 minutes, 9 seconds to play. The Mustangs

answered with a 3-pointer from forward Tyler McGinn and stifling defense that led to two layups off turnovers to go ahead 69-56 with 1:42 to play.

Cal Poly's zone defense seemed to frazzle the Hornets' offense throughout the night as Sacramento State shot only 31.1 percent from the field and a dismal 18.5 percent from beyond the 3-point arc on 27 attempts.

In contrast, the Mustangs shot 48.2 percent from the field and 40 percent on 3-pointers.

Forward Derek Stockalper had a game-high 12 rebounds to go with 17 points. He shot 70 percent from the field for the night.

"He's been consistent and he's playing good ball," Cal Poly head

coach Kevin Bromley said of Stockalper. "I like how confident he is. He's just in a great rhythm right now and he's going to the glass."

McGinn contributed 17 points of his own, including five 3-pointers, and center Titus Shelton made timely plays in the post throughout the night to finish with 15 points and eight boards. Guard Trae Clark finished with 12 points.

Cal Poly (8-8) is at the .500 mark this late in the season for the first time since the 2003-04 campaign, which included early wins at Cal and USC.

But the Mustangs, who are 7-1 at home, face their next four

see Basketball, page 14

Johnny in the Box



Brady just a winner

John Middlekauff
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Legends are born on Sundays, but in Tom Brady's case, legendary status was earned two years ago when he won his third Super Bowl in four years. Last Sunday against the Chargers was just a little more icing on his cake.

San Diego Chargers fans are still in disbelief over how they just gave the game away. People are still losing sleep over the countless 15-yard penalties, fumbling punts and interception returns, challenging stupid plays and going for it on fourth-and-11 from the opposition's 31-yard line.

How can this be, and what just happened? Well, like many have experienced over the last several years, you just can't make mistakes against someone who soon will be known as the greatest quarterback ever.

The big question going into the game was — if it was close near the end, could Philip Rivers outplay Brady?

The answer was obviously no.

Down 14-3 with two minutes to go in the first half, Brady led his team down the field for a touchdown to cut the deficit to four going into the half. Down 21-13 with six minutes left, Brady led the Patriots down the field for another touchdown and a two-point conversion. Three minutes later, he leads the team to what would turn out to be a game-winning field goal.

While Brady lives for these moments, San Diego's quarterback was certainly not ready.

The playoffs are all about experience. When the Chargers got the ball back with one minute left, you could tell Rivers was flustered and couldn't quite handle the situation. The difference is when Rivers gave his team a chance to win with a 54-yard field goal, Brady would have gotten them a 30-yard attempt.

Now the big question for football fans is — can Peyton Manning finally take down Brady.

Come on, let's be realistic.

While Brady is 12-1 as a starter in the playoffs, Manning hasn't won a big game since Pop Warner football. Manning has all the numbers, commercials and money

see Johnny, page 14